

MINUTES

Thursday, August 9, 2012



**Sioux Falls
Human Relations
Commission**

12 Noon—1 p.m.
Commission Room, First Floor
City Hall
224 West Ninth Street

Commissioners: Present: Ahrendt, Aware, Carlson, Guzman, Haase, Knobloch, and Salihagic.

Absent: Brennan, Hariri, and Simon; DAC liaison

Staff: Carol Garry, Human Relations Assistant

Guests:

1. Call to Order/Welcome Guests/New Member

Vice Chairperson Ahrendt called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

The newest Commissioner, Bojan (Bo) Salihagic was introduced. Salihagic is from Bosnia, graduated from SDSU, served in the US Dept. of State Diplomatic Security Service and is the Assistant Inspector General of the US Civil Air Patrol, SD Wing. The Commissioners did round-table introductions.

2. Approval of Minutes

Carlson moved to approve the May 10, 2012, meeting minutes, Aware provided the second. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Status of Cases Report

A recent probable finding case was settled at conciliation. The Commission needs to close ten more charges by September 30th to meet our EEOC contract. We will probably have two case panels reviewing until the end of September.

There were eight charges filed in July.

4. Appointment— August Case Panel - Panel A

Case Panel A - Ahrendt, Carlson, Haase, Salihagic and Simon

Case Panel B – Aware, Brennan, Guzman, Knobloch, and Hariri (substitute until new commissioner is named)

5. Continuing Business

Commission Chair: Vaney Hariri

Commission Vice Chair: Valorie Ahrendt

Commission 3rd Officer: Joanne Haase

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair – Vaney Hariri
Val Ahrendt
Joanne Haase

Staff – Colleen Moran

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chair –
Joanne Haase
Steve Brennan
Vaney Hariri
Kathy Knobloch

Staff – Colleen Moran
Carol Garry

EVENTS COMMITTEE

Chair – Rod Carlson
Val Ahrendt
Vaney Hariri
Bojan Salihagic
Dan Simon

Staff – Colleen Moran
Carol Garry

a. Education Committee Report – no meeting, no update

b. Events Committee – Humanitarian Award event update and Selection of 2012 Humanitarian Award recipient

The event is September 18th 5-8pm at the Orpheum. Plans are to invite 175 guests to the reception to include nominees and their families, nominators and past award recipients. The program starts at 7pm and the public is invited. Because it is a Tuesday night, it is unlikely that City officials will attend since they moved the Council meetings to Tuesdays (after we already had the date selected). Jack Mortenson will M.C. again. This year we are planning on having three entertainers: SD Expressions – musical sign language group, Final Vision Dance Ministry, and singers from one of the immigrant congregations.

The Commission reviewed the nine nominations put forward from the Events Committee; there were ten total nominations submitted.

After the three finalists are selected, they will be interviewed for additional information and then be brought back to the full Commission for final scoring. We need to do this in a timely manner so we can get the name to the sculptor in time to get the base engraved. If we have to, we can vote via email.

c. Community Connections update –

Community Connections graduated the first participants and are looking for participants to attend the next session scheduled to start in the fall of 2012.

6. New Business –

a. No new business

b.

c.

7. Disability Awareness Commission Report – No July meeting – no report

8. Public Comment –

9. Adjournment

Having no further business Vice Chairperson Ahrendt adjourned the meeting at 12:35 p.m. to allow for scoring of Humanitarian Award nominations.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carol Garry.