

MINUTES

Thursday, April 12, 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, Bloom, Brennan, Carlson, Guzman, Hariri, Haase, Knobloch, and Owens. DAC liaison – O'Connor

Absent: Simon

Staff: Colleen Moran, Human Relations Manager and Carol Garry, Human Relations Assistant

Guests: Nassir Yemam

1. Call to Order/Welcome Guests/New Member

Chairperson Hariri called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. Aware introduced our guest, Nassir Yemam. Nassir has a small janitorial business in Sioux Falls and is from Ethiopia. He has been in Sioux Falls for nine years.

2. Approval of Minutes

Carlson moved to approve the March 8, 2012, meeting minutes, Brennan provided the second. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Status of Cases Report

Moran provided a report on the status of the open cases. There are currently twenty-two open cases. Three cases were sent to the March case panel and closed. All were no probable cause findings. Moran hopes to have three more ready for the April panel.

One of the recent mediated cases was closed by a negotiated settlement. The other case that had requested mediation is still pending.

4. Appointment— March Case Panel – Panel A

Case Panel A - **Ahrendt, Bloom, Carlson, Haase and Simon**

Case Panel B – Aware, Brennan, Guzman, Owens, Knobloch

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 – Maggie Owens
Joanne Haase
Steve Brennan
Vaney Hariri
Kathy Knobloch

Staff – Colleen Moran
Carol Garry

EVENTS COMMITTEE

Chair – Rod Carlson
Val Ahrendt
Qadir Aware
Katie Bloom
Sandra Guzman
Vaney Hariri
Kathy Knobloch
Dan Simon

Staff – Colleen Moran
Carol Garry

5. Continuing Business

a. Education Committee Report – Haase

The Committee met briefly after the last HRC meeting. They decided on the new look for the Commission's handouts/brochures. There will be a rack card with the steps to take if harassed at work and a general handout. The handouts can be posted at other places and taken along to any speaking opportunities.

It was suggested that a line stating that this service is provided at no cost and you don't need an attorney to go through the process.

Aware thought that stereo-typing should be added to the list of protected classes. It was agreed that the 'Isn't that Ridiculous' campaign would address that issue.

Again, the Commission was asked to review the new website and provide feedback to staff by next week.

b. Events Committee

After last month's meeting a list of service agencies was sent out to the Commissioners and they were asked to review it and let staff know if they were interested in speaking to any certain group or if they had a connection to any group that could serve as an introduction for a Commission speaker/presentation. A few responded. If you have not already done so, please review the list and let staff know about any possible interest/introduction.

Moran has prepared a power point that could also be used just as a script for a presentation to ensure whoever is presenting we are delivering the same message. Moran is willing to go to any or all of the presentations as a presenter or to assist anytime, anyone, however long. Hariri is also available, though may be limited by his work schedule.

The Events Committee picked three events to attend this summer: Cinco de Mayo – 5/5, Festival of Cultures - 6/16, and Juneteenth – 6/19? We still need volunteers to staff the booth from Noon to 7p.m. for Cinco de Mayo and youth volunteers to help. Let staff know what time slot you can cover – 1-3, 3-5, and 5-7. Moran and Garry will set up and cover from 11 – 1.

c. Community Connections update –

Since the last HRC meeting, Community Connections has met with Falls Community Health and the Library.

The health clinic presentation was made by the director, Jill Franken. The group learned that the clinic isn't the only service provided by this department. Included in the medical clinic is the dental clinic, health lab and a place for eye exams. They have done a lot of immigrant physicals when they first come to Sioux Falls. They also do restaurant and day care

inspections and monitor and control the mosquito population. Because they are located in the same building as the county human services it is easy to refer clients/patients to them for further services.

Earlier they visited the library where the library director, Mary Johns, informed them of all the services available at the library, especially online. Some of the services provided online are Mango, a language learning program; ACT tutor; citizenship tutor; and data bases like *Consumer Reports* for research. You can also research grant data bases.

6. New Business – Moran

Moran wanted to update the Commission on some other things staff is currently working on:

- 1) May – new board members for HRC and DAC. One vacancy on the HRC, a reappointment. Let Moran know if you are no longer interested in serving so we can find a replacement from the submissions the Mayor's office has requested.
- 2) Seminar/Presentation – Staff feels a need to have a public presentation on tenants' rights and responsibilities.
- 3) Chapter 211/2 – Beginning to work on revisions. If you have input or if you're interested in helping with the revisions let staff know.
- 4) April 17th – Next week is National Volunteer Week. The Mayor will be proclaiming April 17, 2012, as Jacob Herrmann Day in Sioux Falls in recognition of Jacob's volunteer work at City Hall. Please join our celebration at 1p.m.

7. Disability Awareness Commission Report – Garry reported

Garry updated the HRC on the status of the DAC's projects.

- The Awareness Committee is working on the NDEAM event in October.
- The 'Spread the Word to End the Word' was successful, especially for the first year of the event. Mayor Huether read a proclamation at the City Council meeting.
- Regarding the long standing Convention/Visitor's Bureau project - the guidelines will be forwarded to the CVB members and no further outreach is planned at this time.
- The remaining projects are just getting started and no action is expected until later in the year.

8. Public Comment –

Aware is concerned about the City Ordinance (CH 21 1/2) as changes/revisions to it have been discussed for the past ten years. He feels

there need to be some changes to make it more effective and updated to the current times. He is willing to meet with the City Council and the Mayor as a Commissioner to improve the ordinance.

It was suggested to have a meeting of those Commissioners interested in revising the ordinance, with the idea of bringing proposed changes to the meeting. It is easy to say something needs to be changed, but we need concrete ideas on what and how the changes are made.

9. Adjournment

Having no further business Chairperson Hariri adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carol Garry.