

MINUTES

Thursday, November 14, 2013



Sioux Falls
Human Relations
Commission

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

Commissioners:

Present: Brennan, Haase, Jones, Mortenson, Scere, and Walker (via telephone).
DAC liaison – Julie Briggs

Absent: Bouwman, Harkness, Kaiser, Reichelt, and Salihagic

Staff:

Colleen Moran, Human Relations Manager and Carol Garry, Human Relations Technician

Guests: No guests present

1. Call to Order/Welcome Guests

Chairperson Haase called to order at 12:06pm. No guests were present.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mortenson moved to approve the October 10, 2013, meeting minutes, Jones provided the second. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Status of Cases Report

Nine new charges were filed since September. No cases were sent out in October, but should expect one in November.

When making changes to CH. 98 staff would like to add age discrimination.

4. Civil Rights Update

Moran wanted to hear what the Commission thought about the recent news about 'bullying' or harassment on the Miami Dolphin NFL football team, especially when a lot of different groups are blaming the complaining party. Does claiming that it is the 'culture' of the NFL make it acceptable?

Also, discussed was reciting the pledge of allegiance in school. Recently, a veteran's organization requested that the SF School District require the pledge be said in the middle and high schools. The School Board agreed to require it be said at the middle school level, but did not think it would work for the senior high level. National news reports claimed that the Board 'banned' the pledge, which was false, but created a stir on the national level.

Scere mentioned religious accommodation in the school system, not only as it reflects on the pledge of allegiance, but other religious holidays that are not Christian holidays. Some districts have adopted a flexible holiday scheduling, but not everything can be accommodated.

5. **Appointment—September Case Panel – Case Panel A**

Bouwman, Harkness, Kaiser, Reichelt, and Scere

6. **Continuing Business**

a. Strategic Planning – create outreach contact list. The Commissioners were to bring a list of three to five organizations to reach out to for training/awareness. Some suggestions include:

- Hotels/Motels – perhaps through the Convention and Visitors' Bureau
- John Morrells
- Hospitals
- Nursing homes
- City depts.
- Call centers
- Lutheran Social Services (LSS)
- Catholic Family Services
- Interlakes Community Action
- Multi-Cultural Center (MCC)
- SHRM (Steve/Julie have contacts)
- Scere provided staff with a list of thirty ethnic church leaders

The Commission discussed launching an awareness campaign to include radio, TV, and print and making it a week or month long event. It could include a race/run. We will discuss this further at the first meeting in 2014.

b. Website Review

Staff requests that the Commission review the website for needed updates and changes and report at the first meeting of 2014.

7. **New Business –**

a. **Awareness Wear**

All are asked to review the selections offered and email Garry with choice (include color and size). Garry will email the selections and size chart to all.

b. **Commission Contact Cards**

Staff passed out awareness/contact cards to those present; also, pens and magnetic 'things-to-do' tablets that were passed out at the Diversity Conference. Some of the cards were also magnetic.

8. Disability Awareness Commission Report

The DAC did not meet in October.

The call for art was sent for the 2014 ArtAbility. The reception is April 4th.

9. Public Comment –

No public comment

10. Adjournment

Having no further business Mortenson moved to adjourn; Walker seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carol Garry.