

MINUTES

Thursday, September 12, 2013



**Sioux Falls
Human Relations
Commission**

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

Commissioners:

Present: Bouwman, Harkness, Jones, Mortenson, Reichelt, Salihagic, Scere and Walker (12:20pm). DAC liaison – Julie Briggs

Absent: Brennan, Haase, and Kaiser

Staff:

Carol Garry, Human Relations Assistant

Guests: No guests present

1. Call to Order/Welcome Guests

Vice Chairperson Salihagic called to order at 12:05pm. No guests were present.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mortenson moved to approve the July 11, 2013, meeting minutes, Reichelt provided the second. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Status of Cases Report

Garry gave the status of cases update. Several cases will be ready for review this month. Since September is the end of the federal fiscal year, staff will need to have all the read case decisions back no later than September 30th. We will try to have more than one case panel set up so neither panel is overworked/pressured.

4. Civil Rights Update

Before she left for an out-of-town board meeting, Moran provided staff with information on a couple of recent civil rights decisions.

- A \$22,000 housing settlement in Kentucky where a landlord was sued for misrepresenting the availability of and refusing to negotiate a lease of apartments based on race/color. The landlord was also alleged to have made statements showing preference for families without children to rent second floor apartments.

- The DOJ settles with a bariatric clinic over HIV discrimination. The clinic was accused of violating the ADA by refusing or cancelling surgery for two individuals with HIV. This is the fifth settlement this year the DOJ has reached in HIV discrimination case by a medical provider.

5. Appointment—September Case Panel – Case Panel A

Bouwman, Harkness, Kaiser, Reichelt, and Scere

6. Continuing Business

a. Humanitarian Award Review/Input –

Comments included:

- Great Venue
- Too much time between eating and the award presentation
- Nominees should have stood to be recognized
- Reading the nominations takes too long; they are all printed in the program so everyone can read it themselves
- Some prefer the Orpheum - more elegant reception area, theater may not fill up, but the stage makes the presentation more visible.
- Didn't like that there was no one from the caterer to replenish or re-set the food so it was more presentable.
- Other than the Mayor and a couple of dept. heads – no city leaders
- No PR other than a few news releases, the website, and Facebook.
- Mayor should present award

The big question before going on is: do we do this again? If we do, we need to start earlier.

b. Strategic Planning - plans for 2014

What can we do to promote more public awareness of the HRC? In the recent past we've done billboards, had booths at ethnic-centric events, and presented with interested service organizations. Think about it and share at the next meeting.

7. New Business –

a. Upcoming events

- National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) – October 3rd at the Sanford Research Center, 7:30 – 10 a.m. \$25 fee includes breakfast and presentation. SHRM credits are available. More information at www.sfbrn.org

AGENDA

7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Registration

8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Breakfast

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Mental Illness in the Workplace by Southeastern Directions for Life

- Diversity Conference - Wednesday, November 13th at the Sioux Falls Convention Center. More information on our website www.siouxfalls.org/relations

8. Disability Awareness Commission Report

The DAC will be working on the 2014 ArtAbility exhibit. This year's exhibit will be during March and April at the Museum of Visual Materials. More details soon.

2015 will be the 25th Anniversary of when the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) became law. The DAC plans to work with several other agencies for an event that will be educational and create awareness. In the past they've had torch runs, picnics, and baseball games at the accessible baseball field.

9. Public Comment –

Scere provided a poster showing what scripture teaches us regarding the use of alcohol.

Briggs informed the Commission about the ball for people with disabilities on October 3rd. The ball is hosted by Celebrate! Church for people from Achieve and members of their congregation who have cognitive disabilities. They need 200 volunteers to help with the event. This year has a 50's theme.

10. Adjournment

Having no further business Mortenson moved to adjourn; Jones seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carol Garry.