

MINUTES

Thursday, July 11, 2013



**Sioux Falls
Human Relations
Commission**

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

Commissioners:

Present: Bouwman, Haase, Harkness, Jones, Kaiser, Reichelt, Salihagic, Sceres and Walker. DAC liaison – Julie Briggs

Absent: Brennan and Mortenson

Staff:

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

Guests:

1. Call to Order/Welcome Guests

The meeting was called to order at 12:08pm. Roundtable introductions followed as there are seven new members. No guests were present.

As the only remaining officer, Haase was asked to chair the meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes

Reichelt moved to approve the May 9, 2013, meeting minutes, Walker provided the second. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Status of Cases Report

After the update on the status of cases, Haase asked staff to explain the reports and some of the coding.

Briefly:

EM before the case number indicates the charge involves employment, HA is housing, EA is employment agency, PA is public accommodation, PS is public service, and ED is for education charges.

4. Civil Rights Update

Discrimination is still happening. Moran would like to keep the Commission updated on some of the latest decisions by the EEOC and the Courts.

One example is a recent decision that was made against Target for race discrimination. It involved a memo to managers explaining multi-cultural tips that were found to be discriminating.

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

Bouwman, Harkness, (Haase,) Kaiser, Reichelt, and Sceres

Haase will read for Harkness until she receives orientation.

6. **Continuing Business**

a. Humanitarian Award Update –

We had planned to review nominations but since we extended the deadline, not all of the expected nominations have been received yet. Walker, Jones, Salihagic, and Harkness volunteered to pre-screen the nominations. We will hold a special meeting to select the award recipient or vote via email if that is not possible.

The venue this year is the Prairie Center @ Avera. All Commissioners are expected to attend and invite others. The date is Thursday, August 29, 2013.

7. **New Business –**

a. HRC office relocation

The Human Relations Commission along with the City Attorney's Office and Community Development's Economic Development Office has moved across 9th Street to 100 South Dakota Avenue, Suite 101.

The move was yesterday, July 10th; everything has been moved, but not settled in yet.

b. Election of Officers

This was tabled at the May meeting when by ordinance the election of officers is to take place because two of the officers' terms were expiring and we were losing/gaining five other members.

Salihagic nominated Haase for Chairperson; Walker seconded.

Salihagic volunteered to serve as Vice Chair and Reichelt volunteered to serve as third officer.

The proposed slate of officers was unanimously accepted/approved.

c. Strategic Planning

With the huge change in the make-up of the Commission, staff asked that they consider how the Commission should be involved in the community and where to focus time and energy.

Please plan on bringing ideas to the next Commission meeting.

8. Disability Awareness Commission Report

The DAC did not meet in June as there was a turnover in their membership also.

One of the DAC's programs involves awareness. They create awareness/exposure through speaking engagements, booths, and presentations. A lot of these are done in partnership with the DAC, HRC and the Business Resource Network (BRN).

A specific awareness project developed by the BRN partnered with the DAC is the disability- friendly business recognition program. Business will be 'nominated' as a disability-friendly business if they employ people with disabilities and are fully accessible. The project is expected to launch in September 2013.

The next ARTAbility exhibit will be March/April 2014 at the Museum of Visual Materials.

9. Public Comment –

The Community Connections program is taking applications until July 19, 2013. This program provides exposure to the workings of the City to those interested in taking part in the two day learning experience. Contact the office if you want to apply or have a referral.

10. Adjournment

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carol Garry.