

MINUTES

Thursday, December 11, 2014



**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, Mortenson, Pagan-Rosario, and Wood. DAC liaison: Schaefer

Absent: Brennan, Larson and Scere. Kaiser resigned.

Staff:

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

Guests:

Disability Awareness Commission members: Deb Aden, Walt Schaefer, Chelle Hart, Sheila Sandness and Sarah Jo Jorgensen; ADA Accessibility Review Board members: Roseann Burkett and Helen Hartman; and City Attorney Dave Pfeifle.

1. Call to Order/Welcome Guests.

Chairperson Haase called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm. Roundtable introductions were done to introduce the members of the HRC's related boards.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mortenson moved to approve the September 11, 2014, meeting minutes, Bouwman provided the second. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Status of Cases Report

Moran gave a update on the status of cases. The Commission took in 27 and resolved 28 formal complaints thus far in 2014.

4. Appointment—December Case Panel – Case Panel A

Bouwman, Harkness, Haase, Larson, and Scere

5. Continuing Business

a. Colwill Award –

The Colwill Award has been given out twice in the past three years. The award was not given out this year. There has not been a specific criterion set up for this award and the Commission wants to have that in place before continuing with the award.

b. Attendance –

Moran emailed the city board handbook for all the CH. 98 boards to review with an emphasis on attendance. It is important that members confirm their attendance so

staff will be assured that there will be a quorum. Telephonic attendance is acceptable and encouraged if unable to get to the meeting.

c. Commission name change -

There has been a discussion regarding changing the name of the Commission from Human Relations Commission to Human Rights Commission. Any change in the name will require an ordinance change. The Boards are encouraged to review the ordinance (CH. 98) to see if there are other changes that need to be made. All members have a copy in their handbooks.

d. ADA 25th Anniversary Celebration –

The HRC has been invited to join the DAC in planning the 25th anniversary celebration. Still in the early planning stages, but a date and a venue have been decided on; July 13, 2015 at the Hilton Garden Inn – downtown.

e. Budget/Spending –

Chairperson Haase asked that the Commission be provided with an itemized budget for 2014 and what is planned for 2015.

7. New Business –

a. Update from ADA Accessibility Review Board –

The ADA ARB reviewed:

- Second Avenue reconstruction
- Event Center parking
- Dunham Park Master Plan
- Sidewalk Poetry concept for the Cathedral Historic District
- Falls Park West
- Southern Vistas Master Plan
- Upper Terrace Park Master Plan

The Board toured the Denny Sanford Premier Event Center twice; once, mid-construction in February and again on September 11th prior to the opening.

The Board also met with the City's Transit Planner to get updated on the changes happening with S.A.M. and paratransit.

b. Update from the Disability Awareness Commission

The DAC 2014 projects include:

- 2014 ArtAbility – art exhibit March/April 2014
- Partnered with the BRN to launch the 'Disability Friendly' sticker program
- Planning for the 2015, 25th Anniversary of the signing of Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Promoted the 'Spread the Word to End the Word' program. March 4th – Mayoral proclamation and pledge day was March 5th.

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- COPPS – found some existing laws that will help with drafting the ordinance to allow volunteers to cite those illegally parked in the ADA accessible parking. They would also like to put together some PSA emphasizing that it's against the law to park in the ADA accessible parking spaces without the required permit.
- Participated/promoted the National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) in October.
- Promoted White Cane Law Day, October 15th.

The DAC welcomed 2 new members and elected their new officers in May.

2015 ArtAbility will be March/April 2015 with the artists' reception scheduled for April 10th.

Also to be noted: two members of the DAC were nominated for the 2014 Humanitarian Award.

c. Update from the Human Relations Commission –

The HRC 2014 activities include:

- Booth at Cinco de Mayo where they gave away lanyards and information cards on how to contact the HRC
- Rained out at the Festival of Cultures – rainy and cold!
- Community Connections program - would encourage all to participate
- 2014 Humanitarian Award – 3 awards this year; business, organization/group, & individual
- 2014 Mayor's Leadership Appreciation dinner – where former HRC chair Vaney Hariri was presented with the Mayor's Leadership award

The HRC welcomed 3 new members in 2014, and is currently taking applications to fill a vacancy on the Commission.

The HRC received 27 formalized complaints and resolved 28 as of 11/30/14.

The Human Relations Manager offered several trainings to various businesses in the community.

A new position will be added in 2015 – Human Rights Community Coordinator. The application process closes on December 29th and the hope is to have someone hired soon afterwards.

9. Public Comment –

City Attorney Dave Pfeifle thanked the Commission/Board members for their service. Having member's personal perspective and experience is very valuable to the City.

Mortenson reported that the Peace and Justice Center is having a peaceful demonstration in front of the federal courthouse on Saturday, December 13th beginning at 10am until 12 Noon. The demonstration is meant to start discussion before problems arise.

10. Adjournment

Having no further business Mortenson moved to adjourn; Bouwman seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carol Garry.