

MINUTES

Thursday, August 13, 2015



Sioux Falls
Human Relations
Commission

12 Noon—1 p.m.
Commission Room
First Floor, City Hall

Commissioners:

Present: Harkness, Jones, Mortenson, Pagan-Rosario, Scere, Wood

Absent: Bouwman, Brennan, Haase, Larson, Ramirez

Staff: Colleen Moran, Human Relations Manager; Tina Lemieux, Human Relations Technician

DAC Member Present: Walter Schaefer

Guests Present: Wagaye Mesel, Maggi Ibis, Zinda Scere

1. Call to Order/Welcome Guests

Vice-Chair Mortenson called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

The Commission welcomed Wagaye Mesel, Maggi Ibis, and Zinda Scere.

2. Approval of Minutes

Wood moved to approve the July 09, 2015 meeting minutes. Harkness seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Civil Rights Update

Cases included a claim of discrimination based on disability. Carnival Corporation, the parent company of Carnival Cruises, has reached a settlement with the Department of Justice due to allegations of discrimination. Among the complaints were allegations that the company failed to: properly provide and reserve accessible cabins for individuals with mobility disabilities; reasonably modify policies, practices and procedures to accommodate individuals with disabilities; afford individuals with disabilities the same opportunities to participate in programs and services, including embarkation and disembarkation; and provide effective communication during muster and emergency drills. As part of the lawsuit, Carnival Corporation has been ordered to provide specific ADA training to employees and managers. In addition, Carnival Corporation will pay a civil penalty of \$55,000 to the United States and \$350,000 in damages to individuals harmed by past discrimination.

The second update involved discrimination based on gender. The U.S. Women's soccer team recently won the World Cup. As part of the team's compensation, the team was awarded \$2 million dollars. However, the U.S. Men's soccer team, who came in 11th, was awarded \$9 million dollars. While there is no official lawsuit, a previous FIFA case which involved over 40 international women soccer players, was dropped earlier this year. The lawsuit demanded FIFA install natural grass in the arenas as opposed to turf. FIFA refused.

4. Appointment of Case Panel A:

Bouwman, Harkness, Larson, Ramirez, Scere

5. Continuing Business

A. Outreach Committee:

The latest outreach event was the ADA Celebration in July. The Outreach Committee intends to meet.

B. Communications Committee:

No new updates provided. The Communications Committee intends to meet in the near future.

6. New Business –

A. Humanitarian Awards

- a. The Awards will take place on Monday, October 26, 2015 at the Orpheum Theater.
- b. Nominations are currently being accepted through Friday, September 4, 2015.
- c. The Commission discussed the Colwill award. Scere moved to postpone moving forward with the Colwill award at present time. Jones seconded.

B. Charter for Compassion

- a. Mesel and Ibis presented on the Charter for Compassion. The Charter for Compassion is a project which started after author, Karen Armstrong, won a TED cash prize. The goal of the movement is to motivate communities to be more compassionate. One benefit of the Charter is that it is customizable to each city. It also gives one city the opportunity to interact with other communities across the country and the world. Ibis and Mesel discussed the next steps of the project including: registering the City of Sioux Falls, signing a proclamation, holding a press conference, and forming a subcommittee. Ibis and Mesel also discussed the importance of measureable objectives as a means of ensuring this project is sustainable. The idea of a youth leadership award was also discussed.

Wood moved to form a subcommittee to the Human Relations Commission. Jones seconded the motion. The Charter for Compassion will be included as a third point under Continuing Business on the monthly agenda.

- C. Wood requested information regarding interpreting services for individuals who file a complaint. Moran explained different resources including Language Line and contracts the City has with local agencies. It was also mentioned that individuals who file complaints have the opportunity to have an interpreter read any materials sent to the complainant by the Human Relations department.

7. Disability Awareness Commission Report (Walter Schaefer presented the report):

- A. At the July DAC board meeting, the Commission discussed the ADA Celebration. Schaefer reported the DAC is appreciative of the efforts and time HRC members devoted to the event. Schaefer stated the DAC discussed different ways to provide wheelchair awareness. In addition, the dates for ArtAbility were released. The art reception will be held on April 8, 2016. Artwork will be displayed at the Museum of Visual Materials from March – April. Ms. Wheelchair South Dakota will take place on September 27, 2015 at the Hilton Garden Inn. Schaefer also reported that an adaptive kayaking event occurred in July.

8. Public Comment –

- A. No public comment.

9. Adjournment

Having no further business Wood moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 12:54 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tina Lemieux.