

# MINUTES

Thursday, February 12, 2015



**Sioux Falls  
Human Relations  
Commission**

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

Commissioners:

Present: Bouwman, Haase, Harkness, Jones, Larson, Mortenson, Pagan-Rosario, and Wood. DAC liaison: Walt Schaefer

Absent: Brennan and Scere. (Kaiser resigned)

Staff:

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

Guests:

Darwin Wolf, Sculptor; Vaney Hariri, The Noble 1, Emcee extraordinaire & Hip Hop artist; Alejandro Ramirez, newly appointed HRC member.

1. Call to Order/Welcome Guests

Chairperson Haase called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes

**Mortenson moved to approve the January 8, 2015, meeting minutes, Jones provided the second.** The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Status of Cases Report

Two charges were taken in January and there was one administrative closure. This was an age discrimination charge and was transferred to the EEOC for processing because age is not a protected class under our ordinance or state law.

4. Civil Rights Update

A Maryland sheriff's department paid a \$250,000 settlement for a sexual harassment case. After the woman complained about the sexual harassment, it grew worse.

A financial institution was found to have been targeting vulnerable population groups – specifically African Americans. They were required to set up a fund to assist those who were taken advantage of.

5. Appointment—February – Case Panel A

Bouwman, Harkness, Larson, Ramirez (after he's a full member and had orientation) and Scere.

6. Continuing Business

**a. Budget Expenditures**

Moran provided a general description of where our budgeted funds are spent – registrations and promotional items for events where we have a booth, awareness wear for Commissioners, printing of our promotional literature, and the Humanitarian Award event. Staff would like recommendations on how to allocate \$2500 of our budgeted funds.

**b. Committees**

Staff included a memo regarding committees with the monthly meeting materials. The memo suggested there be three committees:

Executive Committee made up of the officers and staff. Their duties will focus on enforcement and other administrative tasks.

Because education/awareness/events seemed to overlap, the decision was made to have a Communication Committee and an Outreach Committee.

The Communication Committee will be responsible for developing the HRC communication to the public. This will include any PSA, handouts, web/social media postings, bus ads, and other communication platforms, and will include working with the City's Graphic Designer, CityLink Producers, and outside resources. Ramirez, Mortenson, Larson, Bouwman and Jones volunteered to serve on this committee with Mortenson taking the lead.

The Outreach Committee will research, plan, and implement outreach opportunities. This could include community events, outreach meetings with special groups, and trainings by staff and interested Commissioners. Wood, Harkness, Haase, and Rosario volunteered to serve on this committee and Wood would lead this group. Scere was volunteered in absentia.

Due to the fact that the registration deadline for Cinco de Mayo is prior to the HRC March meeting, **Wood moved that the HRC decide today if it will be part of the Cinco de Mayo celebration, Harkness seconded. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.**

**Mortenson made a motion that the HRC participate in the Cinco de Mayo celebration; Wood seconded. Motion carried.**

The Communication and Outreach committees will report at the next HRC meeting.

7. New Business –

**a. Hariri-Wolf Project**

This project combines Vaney's performance art with Darwin's visual art. They have received a grant for the SD Arts Council to get their project off the ground.

They have a basic concept in mind but want to have a juried call for art to get other points of view incorporated into it. They want to create a conversation that is not

“post crisis”, eventually addressing the issues of how we all interact in spite of, or because of, race.

They are looking for partners to promote/endorse the project. They will also seek sponsors for the awards for the artists and funding for promotions which would include printing costs and other forms of publication.

Wood was concerned that their concept was not diverse enough to include everyone due to their conceptual religious imagery. Their plan is to incorporate diversity through the contributions of the other artists who would submit entries.

The HRC will consider their proposal and have further discussion at their next meeting.

8. Disability Awareness Commission Report:

ARTAbility: March 3 – April 30. A nice number of entries has been received, without having to extend the deadline this year.

There are adaptive ski and hockey events being planned in the near future – weather permitting.

Newly elected officers: Walt Schaefer and Lori Lewison are co-chairs and Deb Aden is the third officer.

9. Public Comment –

No public present.

10. Adjournment

**Having no further business Mortenson moved to adjourn; Wood seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:05p.m.**

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Carol Garry.*