

MINUTES

Thursday, April 9 , 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, Wood, Scere, and Ramirez

Absent: Pagan-Rosario

Staff: Colleen Moran, Human Relations Manager; Carol Garry, Human Relations Technician; and Vandhana Baireddy, Human Rights Community Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Haase called the meeting to order at 12:06 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mortenson moved to approve the March 12, 2015, meeting minutes; Wood seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Status of Cases Report

Two cases were settled this month by mediation; one case was presented to the Commission today; two intakes cases are being reviewed.

Public Hearing is set for April 20, 2015, at 9:30 in the Commission Room. Hearing panel members are Harkness, Wood, and Bouwman.

4. Civil Rights Update

Cases included a claim of discrimination based on disability. An employee was awarded \$50,000. The employee had a heart attack and was cleared to return to work; however, his employer refused to allow him to work, and, instead, terminated his employment.

The EEOC reached a settlement on a race discrimination case that began in the 1970s. The settlement agreement is for \$12 million.

5. Appointment of Case Panel A

Bouwman, Harkness, Larson, Ramirez and Scere

6. Continuing Business

The ADA 25th Anniversary Celebration planning is continuing; the committees continue to meet.

Upcoming event opportunities include: Cinco De Mayo Falls Park Fiesta on May 9, 2015; Festival of Cultures on June 13, 2015; and the Pride Festival on June 20, 2015.

7. New Business –

a. Discussion of Human Rights Community Coordinator Relationship with HRC

The Human Relations Community Coordinator will work with the HRC in outreach opportunities, including speaking and events. The HRCC will also focus on providing information about employment opportunities with the City and will help with the complaint process and investigations.

Ramirez volunteered to help with Spanish translations for resume purposes. Haase also indicated that Goodwill provides help in this area.

Scere, a member of the Diversity council, invited the Baireddy to speak and share ideas.

b. Small Quiz on HRC basic facts on Human Relations

Commission members took a quiz to test their knowledge on Human Relations and related information.

8. Disability Awareness Commission Report:

a. ARTAbility: This art exhibit, featuring artists with disabilities, runs from March 3 – April 30. An artist reception will be held at the Museum of Visual materials on April 10, 2015. The number of pieces of art exhibited is higher than in the past.

b. A number of adaptive sport activities have taken place in Sioux Falls. These have included hockey, skiing, kayaking and others.

c. DAC officers are Walt Schaefer and Lori Lewison, co-chairs, and Deb Aden, third officer.

9. Sub – Committee meetings-

Communication and outreach committees met to make plans for upcoming activities and events.

10. Public Comment –

No public present.

11. Adjournment

Having no further business Mortenson moved to adjourn; Wood seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:15p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Vandhana Baireddy.