

MINUTES

Thursday, May 14, 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, Ramirez, Scere, Wood

Absent: Brennan

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

DAC Member Present: Walter Schaefer

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Haase called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes

The approval of meeting minutes was deferred until the next meeting on June 11, 2015.

3. Civil Rights Update

Cases included a claim of discrimination based on disability. A retirement community limited individuals with disabilities from dining with and attending events with those who are more independent. The retirement community also required those with motorized wheelchairs to purchase liability insurance and required individuals who use motorized wheelchairs to pay a non-refundable deposit. The retirement community has been ordered to pay a \$350,000 settlement and has been instructed to revise its policies.

A Louisiana housing authority maintained separate waiting lists and apartment units for individuals based on race. The housing authority has been ordered to pay a \$175,000 settlement. The housing authority has also been instructed to update its policies and provide additional training to staff.

4. Appointment of Case Panel B

Jones, Mortenson, Pagan-Rosario, Wood, Brennan

5. Continuing Business

a. Outreach Committee:

Cinco de Mayo report: overall, good attendance. The committee discussed items that would be beneficial to have at future events including: additional cloth clips, HRC brochures, paperweights. Haase provided a detailed checklist with additional items that would be beneficial to have at events; the list included: DAC materials, promotional giveaways, information on upcoming events, and a list of scheduled of volunteers along with contact information. Moran reported a referral made during Cinco de Mayo has contacted the Human Relations office.

The ADA 25th Anniversary Celebration planning is continuing; the committees continue to meet. The event will take place on July 13th. Nominations for ADA Celebration awards are open.

Upcoming event opportunities include: Festival of Cultures on June 13, 2015 – cost: \$30 (registration) and \$35 (canopy rental); and the Pride Festival on June 20, 2015 – cost: \$50.

Volunteers were requested for both events.

b. Communications Committee:

The Communications Committee will be scheduling a meeting soon.

Haase reported that she spoke to the Business and Professional Women's group about the Human Relations Commission.

6. New Business –

a. Election of Officers

The following Officers were elected:

- Commission Chair: Joanne Haase
- Commission Vice Chair: Jack Mortenson
- Commission 3rd Chair: Vicki Harkness

Mortenson moved to elect the above Officers for a term of 1 year; Scere seconded.

b. Humanitarian Award

The Orpheum will be the site of the Humanitarian Award's reception and ceremony. The Committee decided to host the event on Monday, October 26, 2015.

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

a. ARTAbility: This art exhibit, featuring artists with disabilities, ran from March 3 – April 30. An artist reception was held at the Museum of Visual materials on April 10, 2015. The number of guests in attendance was estimated at 250. The increase in attendance was attributed to an increase in the number of artists who participated.

- b.** ADA sponsorship is anticipated to be completed by June 1st.
- c.** DAC members reviewed duties and responsibilities.
- d.** Current projects include: White Cane Walk Day in October, ARTAbility, Spread the Word to End the Word, and Disability Mentoring Day.

8. Public Comment –

No public present.

9. Adjournment

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tina Lemieux.