

# MINUTES

Monday, April 11, 2016



Sioux Falls  
Human Relations  
Commission

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

## Commissioners:

**Present:** Sarah Bouwman, Deborah Deng, John Jones, Jack Mortenson, Bill Wood Stephen Brennan, Henry Scere

**Absent:** Joanne Haase, James Larson, Alex Ramirez

**Staff:** Colleen Moran, Human Relations Manager

**DAC Member Present:** Walter Schaefer

**Guests Present:** None

## 1. Call to Order/Welcome Guests

Commissioner Jack Mortenson called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

## 2. Approval of Minutes

Bouwman moved to approve the March 14, 2016 meeting minutes. Jones seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

## 3. Civil Rights Update

A. March 23, 2016: The Department of Justice announced it settled a lawsuit against an Indiana mobile home park for violations of the Fair Housing Act. The department's Fair Housing Testing Program had individuals pose as renters. By doing so, the department gathered evidence that the mobile home park maintained and enforced a discriminatory policy of refusing to allow families with children to live in the park. The defendants must pay \$100,000 in a settlement fund to compensate victims of discrimination and \$30,000 to the government as a civil penalty. The defendants are also required to implement a nondiscrimination policy, establish a nondiscriminatory application and nondiscriminatory rental procedures, and undergo training on the Fair Housing Act.

B. April 7, 2016: The Department of Justice announced that it settled a lawsuit to resolve allegations that a pain management center refused to treat an individual because the individual was HIV positive. When the individual came to the center for treatment, an employee informed him that the physician would not treat him because he was HIV positive. The pain management center was ordered to pay \$20,000 to the complaining party and \$10,000 in civil penalties to the government. The center was also ordered to develop a non-discrimination policy, submit annual reports to the government, and to provide ADA training to employees.

**4. Appointment of Case Panel B**

Deborah Deng, John Jones, Jack Mortenson, Bill Wood and Stephen Brennan

**5. Continuing Business**

- A. Compassionate Sioux Falls: The kick-off event took place on March 31. Vaney Hariri provided the keynote address. Three businesses/organizations were recognized for acting with compassion. Those recognized were Sammons Financial Group, Goodwill of the Great Plains, and Sanford Wellness – Adaptive Wellness Program. Attendees donated items for the Bishop Dudley House, which were delivered the day after the event.
- B. The ArtAbility artists' reception took place on April 8. Approximately 90 pieces of art were displayed and many members of the public attended the event.

**6. New Business**

- A. Commission members were made aware of the expiration date of their terms.
- B. Commission members were reminded that officer elections will take place in May.
- C. Scere announced an opportunity for outreach for the Commission. Mortenson will speak on behalf of the Commission to members of the Multi-Cultural Community Church on April 17.
- D. The Communication and Outreach Committees will meet following the regular meeting in May.

**7. Disability Awareness Commission Report – Provided by Schaefer**

- A. The DAC finalized information and details on ArtAbility and the artists' reception.
- B. The Human Relations Commission report was presented.

**8. Public Comment**

**9. Adjournment**

Having no further business, Commissioner Wood moved to adjourn; Jones seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

***Minutes respectfully submitted by Colleen Moran.***