

MINUTES

Thursday, August 17, 2017



Sioux Falls
Human Relations
Commission

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

Commissioners:

Present: Jack Mortenson, Melinda (Lindy) Obach, Brian Majerus, John Jones, Alex Ramirez, Bill Wood, Sarah Bouwman, Shirley Halleen

Absent: Henry Scere, James Larson, Sunny Nester Holtz

Staff: Colleen Moran, Assistant City Attorney, Katie Dunn, Assistant City Attorney

DAC Member Present: none

Guests Present: None

1. Call to Order/Welcome Guests

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Ramirez moved to approve the July 20, 2017 meeting minutes. Bouwman seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Disability Awareness Commission

Moran provided the DAC update. Moran discussed the recent guests that have spoken at the recent meetings. The topics have included individuals who are hearing impaired and domestic violence. One guest provided a statistic that more males with disabilities are victims of sexual assault than there are females without disabilities. As a result outreach will continue to expand into these areas as DAC continues to learn.

4. Compassionate Sioux Falls

Wood gave an update on CSF and laid out the efforts put forth for the upcoming Living Library. Moran also updated on the Compassionate Kids Camp at the Washington Pavilion, noting that 50% of the attendees were scholarship recipients. One of the activities included the kids coming to City Hall with muffins to "pay it forward."

5. New Business

- A. Human Relations Office Statistics: Dunn reported that the HRO continues to receive a large number of housing calls. The HRO received approximately 155 housing contacts in July. To date (8/17) in August, the HRO has received approximately 84 housing contacts. A discussion was had as to the percentage of contacts that turn into complaints. Moran explained that in housing the HRO tries to assist parties to resolve the issue pre-complaint, given the urgent nature of the situations that are typically presented. A discussion was also had concerning subcategories within housing and pin-

pointing areas of town where the complaints arise from. In July the HRO had 64 employment contacts. To date through August, the HRO has had 34 employment contacts.

- B. Board members: Two new Board members were present, Obach and Majerus. A third member will be present next month. These members cannot participate until 20 days after City Council approval.
- C. Committees: Discussed continuing need for committees for employment and housing projects. This rolled into continuing business.

6. Continuing Business

- A. Housing Project/Committee: Moran discussed the need for committees for housing and employment projects. Ramirez proposed a third committee for marketing. Also discussed translating documents. Moran explained that we cannot use our funding to do this because of state law, but we could utilize these documents once they are drafted. Bouwman and Majerus volunteered to be on the Housing Committee.
- B. Employment Project/Committee: Obach, Wood, and Jones volunteered for this committee.
- C. Marketing Committee: Ramirez, Mortenson, and Halleen volunteered for this committee. Moran wanted this committee to work on updating HRC paperwork.
- D. Training: Moran offered to conduct a training for HRC members to do outreach.

7. Civil Rights Update

Dunn provided a Civil Rights update concerning the DOJ policies under Attorney General Sessions. Dunn also provided an update on two recent EEOC cases: (2) Ford Motor Company settled a racial and sexual harassment lawsuit for over \$10 million; (2) Suit brought against NY Sprinkler company for racially hostile work environment and retaliation.

8. Public Comment

- A. None. Halleen took opportunity to discuss pamphlet on OLLI and discussed the program.

9. Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Katie Dunn. The next Human Relations Commission meeting will be September 21, 2017.