

# MINUTES

Thursday, September 21, 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, Bill Wood, Shirley Halleen, Sunny Nester-Holtz

**Absent:** Henry Scere, James Larson, Alex Ramirez, Sarah Bouwman

**Staff:** Colleen Moran, Assistant City Attorney, Katie Dunn, Assistant City Attorney, Valerie Schonewill, Human Relations Specialist

**DAC Member Present:** none

**Guests Present:** Officer Holmquest, Sioux Falls Community Resource Officer

### 1. Call to Order/Welcome Guests

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.

### 2. Approval of Minutes

Majerus moved to approve the August 17, 2017, meeting minutes. Jones seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

### 3. Disability Awareness Commission

Moran provided the DAC update. At the last DAC meeting the guest discussed Independent Living Choices (ILC). ILC is a federally funded program, with some local funding, that provides services to individuals with disabilities so that they may live independently. They have a presence in all 50 states.

### 4. Compassionate Sioux Falls

Wood discussed the Community Potluck at City Hall. Moran added that this idea came from an individual they met at the library who said it is hard to hate someone you sit down and break bread with. This is an opportunity to meet individuals you may not normally encounter in your daily activities.

### 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 141 housing contacts in August. To date (9/21) in September, the HRO has received approximately 75 housing contacts. In August the HRO had 65 employment contacts. To date through September, the HRO has had 47 employment contacts.

B. Board members: The third new Board member was present, Sunny Nester-Holtz. Sunny introduced herself.

- C. Case Panels: Now that we have a full board, case panels will be assigned. Moran explained the purpose of the panels is to make determinations in the active cases that the HRO investigates. We have 2 panels in the event a case goes to a public hearing. This way the panel that made the determination will not sit at the hearing. Dunn will assign members to the panels and send out an email.

#### **6. Continuing Business**

- A. Housing Project/Committee: Majerus and Bouwman to be on this committee.
- B. Employment Project/Committee: Obach, Jones, and Nester-Holtz to be on this committee.
- C. Marketing Committee: Ramirez, Mortenson, Wood, and Halleen to be on this committee.

#### **7. Civil Rights Update**

Dunn provided an update on 3 recent “successes” the HRO was involved in. Majerus asked if the HRO kept track of the properties complained about to determine if registered. Moran noted that this is something that the HRO ought to be doing and thanked him for the reminder.

#### **8. Public Comment**

- A. Officer Holmquest introduced herself. She explained her duties and experiences as the new Community Resource Officer for the city.

#### **9. Adjournment**

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:39 p.m.

***Minutes respectfully submitted by Katie Dunn. The next Human Relations Commission meeting will be October 19, 2017.***