


MINUTES	Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.	 CITY OF SIOUX FALLS
Human Relations Commission Meeting	Commission Room 1st Floor – City Hall 224 West Ninth Street Sioux Falls, South Dakota	

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Wood, Sarah Bouwman, Alex Ramirez, Justine Donoway, Megan Grode-Walters, Anny Libengood, Brian Majerus, Melinda Obach

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Kayla Heber, Kassidi Smith, Megan Myers

STAFF PRESENT: Daniel Haggar, Valerie Schonewill

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 12:06 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The April 2019 minutes were approved.

OFFICER ELECTIONS

Alex Ramirez was nominated for Chair, Sarah Bouwman was nominated for Vice Chair, and Justine Donoway was nominated for Secretary. All three were unanimously elected.

NEW HRC ATTORNEY INTRODUCTION

Assistant City Attorney Daniel Haggar introduced himself and explained he will be the new Human Relations attorney as well as the ADA Coordinator for the City.

UPCOMING OUTREACH EVENTS

Two upcoming festivals were presented as outreach possibilities for the Commission – Pride Festival on June 15 and Juneteenth Festival on June 22. The Commissioners agreed these would be good opportunities for outreach and they would like to participate.

Additionally, Ramirez discussed being asked to speak to a company whose employees had been having racial tensions, and spoke about the role the Commissioners could have doing educational outreach. The group also discussed reconvening committees: marketing, housing, and employment.

HUMAN RELATIONS OFFICE STATISTICS

Schonewill reported the Human Relations Office phone call numbers for March and April. In March there were 136 calls regarding housing, and 41 calls regarding employment. In April there were 90 calls regarding housing, and 37 regarding employment. There are 44 active discrimination cases open, and the top three bases are race, disability, and sex.

CIVIL RIGHTS UPDATE

HUD announced a fair housing agreement between a San Diego-area property management company and a family with a child who has a respiratory disability. The complaint alleged the company refused to grant the mother's request to be moved to away from her neighbors who were smokers.

The DOJ reached an agreement resolving allegations that the City of Farmersville, TX discriminated against the Islamic Association of Collin County based on religion by refusing to allow them to build a cemetery.

The DOJ reached agreement with Louisiana Supreme Court regarding a complaint about a failure to provide individuals with qualified interpreters in civil proceedings, in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

PUBLIC INPUT

No public was present for public input.

NEXT MEETING

June 20, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Schonewill