

MINUTES	Thursday, June 20, 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, Justine Donaway, Megan Grode-Walters, Anny Libengood, Brian Majerus, Kassidi Smith

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Kayla Heber, Megan Myers, Alex Ramirez, Melinda Obach

STAFF PRESENT: Valerie Schonewill, John Nelson

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 12:08 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Majerus and seconded by Wood to approve the minutes from the meeting on May 16, 2019, Vote to approve: unanimous. Motion passed.

FESTIVAL OUTREACH

The group discussed the Pride festival – we talked with a large quantity of people, and the festival had a larger turnout than the previous year. Suggestions made for next year: participate in the parade, have a dog bowl with water by our booth. There was also an observation that we talked with a lot of women with kids, and we should see if we can figure out how to engage more young men.

Future festival outreach suggestions: World Refugee Day and Festival of Cultures.

The Commission would like to review handout materials, make sure they are updated and we have enough.

MEETING TIME CHANGE

Wood moved that the Commission change meeting times to the second Thursday of each month at noon, Bouwman seconded, all were in favor. Motion passed.

HUMAN RELATIONS DIVISION STATISTICS

There are currently 50 active discrimination cases; top three bases are race, disability, and sex.

In May the Human Relations Office received 87 calls or intakes regarding housing, and 72 calls or intakes regarding employment.

CIVIL RIGHTS UPDATE

The DOJ reached a settlement against a California agriculture company. The investigation concluded that WesPak discriminated against lawful permanent resident workers by unnecessarily requiring them to re-prove their work authorization when their original documents expired, even though the documents demonstrate they're permanently authorized to work in the US.

A man in Louisiana received a prison sentencing for conspiring with family to prevent a woman from exercising her right to rent and occupy dwelling because of her disabilities. She had been locked in a shed and then cage in yard.

The DOJ settled a discrimination suit against an Indiana bank for redlining by intentionally avoiding providing services like mortgage applications to predominantly African-American neighborhoods.

BUSINESS OR PENDING ISSUES BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD

Majerus suggested the Commissioners make a list of people the members could invite to Human Relations Commission meetings. The list included Community Resource Officers from the SFPD, individuals from the Muslim community in Sioux Falls, an individual from the Brookings Human Relations Commission, members of City Council, individuals from Urban Indian Health, the ACLU, the Naomi Project, and the Center for New Americans, and SHERM. Commissioners also asked whether there would be a future awards event for people in the community, requested the list of case panels, and requested to hear about outcomes of cases they found probable cause on in the future.

PUBLIC INPUT

No public present for input.

NEXT MEETING

July 11, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Wood and seconded by Bouwman to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Schonewill