

MINUTES	Thursday, July 11, 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: Anny Libengood, Kayla Heber, Justine Donaway, Megan Myers, Bill Wood, Alex Ramirez, Brian Majerus

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Melinda Obach, Megan Grode Walters, Kassidi Smith, Sarah Bouwman

STAFF PRESENT: Daniel Haggar, Valerie Schonewill, John Nelson

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m.

Wood made a motion to move public input to the beginning of the meeting, motion was seconded by Donaway. Motion unanimously passed.

PUBLIC INPUT

Amy Miller, owner of Charisma Properties, told the commission Sioux Falls is in an eviction crisis, and they want a plan in place to increase tenant education. She has been working with Roger Jacobs at HUD on an education program and changing eviction laws. She was wondering if it's legal for a LL to give resources to tenants during eviction and require them to get a certificate showing that they've taken a tenant education class. Haggar explained he can't give legal advice on that because of his position with the City, but we are working on a program that will help with tenant education in the future. Majerus said landlords can't require education for anyone who's getting federal assistance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Wood and seconded by Donaway to approve the minutes from the meeting on June 20, 2019, Vote to approve: 6 Yeses. Motion passed.

BUSINESS OR PENDING ISSUES BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD

A. FESTIVAL OUTREACH UPDATE

Wood updated the group that Juneteenth was a great event. Attendance was lower than other festivals, but they did give candy and HRC handouts to a lot of people. They made connections and informed several people about the HRC.

The commission would like to participate in the Native American Day Parade again if it's happening, so the Human Relations Office will look into that.

B. NATIONAL DIVERSITY COUNCIL

Ramirez was approached about joining the NDC, but hasn't been able to join yet because of the cost. Ramirez recently went to meeting where someone from NDC came and spoke. Some businesses in Sioux Falls want to join the NDC and are seeking financial partners. Myers is interested in attending future NDC meetings.

HUMAN RELATIONS DIVISION STATISTICS

There are currently 47 active discrimination cases, top three bases are race, disability, and sex. In June the Human Relations Office had 82 calls or intakes regarding housing, and 41 calls or intakes regarding employment.

CIVIL RIGHTS UPDATE

Schonewill reported on two national news stories. The Ohio man who drove his car into a crowd of counter-protestors at the "Unite the Right Rally" in Charlottesville on Aug. 12, 2017, killing one woman and injuring dozens, was sentenced on June 28, 2019 in the Western District of Virginia to life in prison for his crimes.

The Justice Department announced a settlement with the Allegan Area Educational Service Agency (AAESA), a government agency that provides services to local school districts in MI. The complaint alleged that AAESA discriminated against two female teachers when they were regularly subjected to sexual harassment in the workplace by their supervisor, a former principal at the school. The sexual harassment included verbal abuse as well as unwanted physical touching. The principal was later convicted of criminal assault of the teachers. The complaint alleged that AAESA did not take reasonable steps to prevent the principal's unlawful acts. The agency is paying the teachers \$450,000 total.

NEXT MEETING

August 8, 2019

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Schonewill