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| MINUTES | Thursday, February 17, 2021 at 11:00 AM |  |
| Human Relations Commission Working Session | Commission Room 1st Floor—City Hall 224 West Ninth Street Sioux Falls, South Dakota or by teleconference at 1-408-418- 9388, Access Code 2485 278 6282## | |

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Tony Burke, Kassidi Smith, Sheku Bannister, Karen Gourley, Nassir Yemam, Anny Libengood, Megan Myers, Megan Grode Wolters, Justine Schoolmeester, Dawn Marie Johnson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Karen Gourley

STAFF PRESENT: Sharla Svenes, Lyndsey Meier

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, the working session was called to order at 11:08 a.m.

DISCUSSION TOPIC(S)

Commissioners shared why they have chosen to serve on HRC and what initiatives are important to them. Reviewed complaint and resolution process. The Human Relations Office attempts to informally resolve issues between parties. Employment cases involving employers with 15 or more employees are dual-filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). The City is considering a similar partnership with HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) to handle dual filed Fair Housing cases in our jurisdiction. Discussed confidentiality requirements and ensuring sensitive information is not discussed outside the Commission. Board indicated they would like to receive monthly updates regarding case outcomes; information beyond statistical data. Discussion regarding calls received at the Human Relations Office often times being landlord/tenant issues and not necessarily discrimination related. HRC only has jurisdiction over Fair Housing matters and Svenes shared the City is in the process of streamlining housing services. Schoolmeester suggested HRC present information to 211 about resources specifically related to housing and who to contact for particular issues so that calls are appropriately referred. Also, would be beneficial to get an update from the Thrive Housing Action Team.

Discussed fundamentals that govern HRC and wanting to further examine Chapter 98 of the Sioux Falls Code of Ordinances. Board determined to extend next month’s meeting to allow adequate time to review and discuss Chapter 98 to gain a better understanding of the Commission’s foundation. Myers shared that past HRC meetings used to include breaking into their respective subcommittees to work on their prospective initiatives. Board would like to transition back to this format. Schoolmeester inquired about public input and holding executive sessions to discuss sensitive topics more freely. Consensus of Board is to reduce guest speakers to allow adequate time to focus on initiatives.

Discussed the allocated budget of \$17k with funds being shared between The Human Relations Office, the Commission, and the Disability Awareness and Accessibility Review Board (DAARB). HRC has not held an annual event or accessed funds in quite some time. Myers talked about past initiatives such as the Humanitarian Award for the Board to consider rebooting. Burke asked about receiving private funds for events and outreach and Svennes shared that DAARB received contributions from sponsors for their annual Artability event.

Discussion held about HRC visibility and showcasing members on siouxfalls.org. Consensus is to share their photos online with some members willing to share their contact information with the public. Burke, Grode Wolters, and Libengood shared they feel they should be accessible to the public. Board would also like to identify and connect with subculture liaisons to better connect with all subcultures in our city. Smith shared these identified individuals would be beneficial guest speakers.

Other agenda items were tabled for future meetings due to time constraints. Next steps include an extended meeting to review Chapter 98, determine priorities, and develop subcommittees to work on respective initiatives.

NEXT MEETING

March 10, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyndsey Meier
Human Relations Specialist