

Disability Awareness Commission
Minutes
Human Relations Conference Room, City Hall
February 16, 2011 3:00pm

Call to Order

Co-chairperson Carmichael called the meeting to order at 3:02 PM.

Commission members present: Travis Arneson, Patty Brooks, Peggy Carmichael, Misty Farabee, Ardell Fiedler, Nancy Johnson, Vicki Nelson, and Lynda O'Connor-Ohayon.

Commission members absent: Ted Ornas - resigned

Staff present: Carol Garry, Human Relations Assistant

Guest(s) present: People First of Southeastern South Dakota – TJ Bishop, Sarah Dykstra and Katie Boggs; and Ken Laughlin with Paralyzed Veterans of America

Welcome Guests

Approval of Minutes

O'Connor moved to approve the January 19, 2011, meeting minutes; Farabee seconded. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

Continuing Business

Hotel Survey Update – Brooks reported

Farabee put the survey responses into a numerical rating scale. Still needs a little bit of adjusting for the scoring to be balanced. The rating scale will be posted on the CVB website when completed.

The Committee would like to schedule another spot check so they can compare it to the completed one. Their goal is to check one out of every ten responses. And they will report back to the venues after their review to let them know if there needs to be any adjustment to their responses or if there is a concern they need to take care of.

Staff provided language for the disclaimer and the committee will put that together soon.

ArtAbility 2011– Johnson reported

The Committee contacted Gustaf's to request flowers for this year's artist reception. Pat agreed to provide 25 boutonniere/corsages. They will adjust that number when the final count of submitters is known.

They will be inviting Vicki Kerkvliet to provide the musical entertainment and will invite Brenda Smith to read from her book. A table will also be set up for her to sell them at the event, too.

The Committee needs to reconnect with Achieve's Accent on Events to confirm their participation/sponsorship as well as Achieve's Inspirations – jewelry.

They would like to add 'second annual' to the marketing materials and add Gustaf's as a sponsor on the call for art and the other printed medial.

PSA exposure on KELO TV this year will not be as great given the event is being held during a busy time for retail advertising, but with the \$5000 grant we will still get some viewers.

Awareness Training – Fiedler reported.

Midco is not interested in staff trainings at this time.

The Committee will focus on the SD Safety Council's event – September 28th and the Diversity Conference – sometime in November. The hospitals are still a possibility.

Gas Station Stickers – Arneson reported.

The Committee has seen some of the stickers in use at gas stations. They will contact the national chains to see where they are getting them from. The next step is to get a list of all the gas stations in town and formulate a letter that finds out who is interested in posting the stickers. They would like the letter to be on city letterhead if possible. They will also need to check on the price of the stickers. The list of stations should be available from the fire department.

ADA Resource Library – Carmichael reported.

Contact was made with the main library downtown. They are willing to do a display, but they can't inter-mix their resources with those from another library. They don't have a lot of resource materials on disabilities. The Library will need six months to prepare for a display.

Would they want recommendations from the DAC about resource materials and materials written by people with disabilities? Arneson has a catalog with disability resources.

New Business

Membership Recommendations - Garry reported

Mayor Huether communicated that he will be recommending Julie Briggs to fill the vacancy left by Ted Ornas' resignation and reappointing Vicki Nelson to another three year term to expire in 2014.

Festival of Giving – Farabee reported

The Empire Mall and the Help!Line are co-sponsoring the 11th Annual Festival of Giving on Thursday, March 10, 2011 at the Mall. The event promotes volunteering and hopes to match organizations with volunteer help.

Farabee didn't feel that this event would prove necessary for the DAC to be involved with as we are not currently looking for volunteers for any of the Commission's projects. Special Olympics will have a table and provide some exposure for the DAC at the event.

Subcommittee Procedures – Farabee & Garry

Even though the various committees are encouraged to work through their assignments, they should run things past the officers and staff prior to taking action. This is so the officers and staff know what is happening in case they are contacted, for example the hotel survey spot checks. Also, anything planned to go out on city letterhead needs to go through staff first.

HRC Report

The HRC didn't have a regular meeting in February. A small group did meet to work on media ideas.

Public Comment

People First of Southeastern South Dakota is an advocacy group based in Sioux Falls. They typically meet at Achieve once a month where fifty to eighty members attend. People First is co-hosting a celebration of Developmental Disabilities Month with FRIENDSlink on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, 6:30pm – 8:30pm at Augustana College's Morrison Commons Building.

Ken Laughlin replaced Ryan Green as the Governmental Relations Director at the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA). He works on ADA and vet issues. He is currently working on state legislation regarding adult home foster care.

Ken expressed concern on the hotel survey rating.

Adjournment

Having no further business, Johnson moved and Fiedler seconded to adjourn; the meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2011 @ 3:00pm, HRC Conference Room, First Floor, City Hall.

Minutes submitted by Carol Garry.