

MINUTES

Thursday, October 8, 2009



**Sioux Falls
Human Relations
Commission**

12 Noon—1 p.m.
Commission Room, First Floor
City Hall
224 West Ninth Street

Commissioners: Present: Ahrendt, Aware, Carlson, Lodu, Rist, and DAC Liaison, Farabee.

Absent: Abbott, Hariri, Guzman, Luecke, Waara, and Williams

Staff: Gary Colwill, Human Relations Manager; and Carol Garry, Human Relations Assistant.

Guests:

1. Call to Order/Welcome Guests

- No officers present and no quorum to conduct official business.

2. Approval of Minutes

- No quorum present to conduct official business

3. Status of Cases/Staff Report

- Colwill updated the Commission on the status of the open cases. The oldest case has been pending case review waiting for more witnesses to come forward and will now go ahead as no additional witnesses have come forward. The next oldest will be difficult as the respondent is no longer located in town and finding witnesses will be a challenge. Colwill plans on having four cases to the panel in October and five more in November/December.

4. Appointment—October Case Panel

- Luecke, Ahrendt, Carlson, Guzman and Lodu

5. Continuing Business

a. Humanitarian Award Wrap-up

- Budget – we finished under budget. We still have a couple of things outstanding, but will still be under.
- The food was good – there were no complaints other than some may not have gotten to sample all the choices.

Commission Chair: Vaney Hariri

Commission Vice Chair: Clint Waara

Commission 3rd Officer: Teresa Luecke

HUMANITARIAN AWARD COMMITTEE
Chair—Terry Rist
Karla Abbott
Rod Carlson
Vaney Hariri
Wanda Harris
Jeff Munce

HUD Contract Committee
Karla Abbott
Qadir Aware
Rod Carlson
Vaney Hariri
Terry Rist
Clint Waara

PSA Committee
Sandra Guzman
James Lodu
Teresa Luecke—Chair
Dwayne Williams
Kathy Rustwick
Billie Jo Waara

- Invitation list – we will need to work a little harder to put together a more comprehensive list and put it together sooner.
- The lack of VIP's didn't impact the event. We neglected to invite the GM @ KELO. We won't make that mistake again.
- The entertainment did their job. David Jones asked to be kept in mind for next year. Sandra had a partner and his lack of practice wasn't noticeable. The Lost Artists were, as usual, great.
- KELO is willing to be media sponsor again.
- We are considering having a guest book and having pins for the nominees in lieu of flowers.

6. New Business

a. Diversity Council Update

- The Diversity Council is exploring incorporation which would make it easier for them to handle money for the projects they want to work on – educational and awareness programs.
- Information about the 2009 Diversity Conference is on their website – www.sfdiversitycouncil.org. If any of the Commissioners is interested in attending, please contact Colwill.

7. Disability Awareness Commission Report

- The DAC sponsored City/County awareness training was a great success. 229 participated from the City and 85 from the County. The interest in awareness training has grown since the September sessions. The next training is today at 1:30pm for the SD Real Estate Commission and then on November 18th for the Diversity Conference. There has also been interest expressed by the hospitals. A subcommittee was set up to figure out the DAC's role in these and future trainings. They will also put together a pool of panelists to draw from for any future training.
- The DAC projects update:
 - ArtAbility is the tentative name for the art exhibit for artists with disabilities June/July 2010 at the Museum of Visual Materials. The artists' reception is planned for June 24th.
 - Still working to get the hotel accessibility guide on the Convention and Visitor's Bureau website.
 - The raised bed garden project is looking for a volunteer group to build the raised beds.

8. Public Comment

- MCC is hosting a Native American Day celebration on October 12th 9am – 4:30. Demonstration and hoop dance workshop at 9am, free lunch at noon, Native American Resource Fair from noon to 2pm, and powwow from 2 to 4:30.
- MCC is hosting a speak-out and candlelight vigil on October 23, 2009, as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
- On October 25, 2009, 3-7 pm there will be a fundraiser for a family whose son has heart defects to help cover medical costs.
- November 20, 2009 @ 11:30, the Hispanic Speaking Community Association will be opening their office at the MCC.
- NAACP has an office at the MCC that will be open on Tuesday's and Thursday's.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carol Garry.