

MINUTES

Thursday, November 8 , 2012



**Sioux Falls
Human Relations
Commission**

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

Commissioners: Present: Ahrendt, Guzman, Hariri, Carlson, Reichelt and Simon. DAC liaison – Vicki Nelson

Absent: Aware, Brennan, Haase, Knobloch, and Salihagic

Staff: Colleen Moran, Human Relations Manager and Carol Garry, Human Relations Assistant

Guests:

1. Call to Order/Welcome Guests

Chairperson Hariri called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Carlson moved to approve the October 11, 2012, meeting minutes, Simon provided the second. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Status of Cases Report

There have been two recent probable cause findings. The respondent in one of the cases has elected to have the case decided in the court system prior to the conciliation meeting. The other has a conciliation meeting date of November 15th.

Two more cases should be ready for the case panel before Thanksgiving.

Moran recently spoke to the Professional Business Women's group which resulted in an intake.

4. Appointment—November Case Panel – Panel B

Case Panel A - Ahrendt, Carlson, Haase, Salihagic and Simon

Case Panel B – Aware, Brennan, Guzman, Knobloch, and Reichelt

5. Continuing Business

a. Committees – Committees vs. Project Assignments

The Commission discussed if we should continue with committees or just have project assignments. Members felt that project assignments would allow more flexibility and you could concentrate on where your interests are.

b. Community Connections - update

The latest 'class' was two full- day sessions on October 15th and 16th. There were seventeen participants made up of a variety of ages, jobs, and backgrounds. It started with the director's meeting on the first morning, then met with various departments and the second day ended with recognition at the council meeting. Sioux Area Metro provided transportation to the departments outside of City Hall.

Please recommend individuals who may have an interest. It hasn't been determined yet how often they will have these sessions.

As a result of the program, Hariri has been working with Parks & Rec after establishing a relationship through Community Connections. Another participant will be working with a city department to get local experience relating to training from their native country.

6. New Business –

a. **Projects for 2013** – Humanitarian Award, Events, Awareness, and New Members + Youth Recruitment

- Humanitarian Award:

Hariri would like to see the nomination process be continuous

Moran does not want to pursue sponsorships to avoid competing with non-profits for funding.

Discussed charging for the reception, but we don't want to create a barrier for the nominees and their families to be able to attend.

A marketing kit would be a good idea. This could be dropped off at businesses/agencies and would provide information and personal contact.

A celebrity would help bring in people – get them to experience the event.

We need the Mayor to get behind this; help create a buzz.

Outside professionals could serve on the committee to help us create the event we want i.e. event planner.

Media partner – once we grow this big enough, all the media will cover it.

- Events:

The people involved need to want to be there. We also should try to get youth involved. And all need to be able to mingle with the crowds

to create an interest/awareness of the information we have available. The beach balls were good draw for kids and their parents followed.

- Awareness:

Those speaking to the various groups need to feel comfortable speaking in front of people. Moran has done several presentations and anyone is welcome to come along. If anyone would like to present to a group, Moran has a PowerPoint available and she will also come along for support. Ahrendt asked if a practice session could be set up to familiarize Commissioners with the presentation – certainly!

Thanks to Commissioner Carlson for putting together the agency contact list. We should try to get another contact letter sent out around the beginning of the year.

- New Members + Youth

We need to start recruiting now for the May vacancies. This will allow more time to consider candidates. Also, if we are looking for youth – we should contact SALSA while school is in session.

b. New Commission Candidates

Staff will work on recruitment materials to have something ready for the Diversity Conference next week. This would be a good venue to find interested candidates. Let staff know if you know someone with and interest in being on the Commission.

7. Disability Awareness Commission Report –

Vicki Nelson, co-chair of the DAC provided an update.

ARTABILITY's deadline for submissions is December 7, 2012. The art exhibit runs January – February 2013 with the artist's reception on January 24th.

Awareness trainings – NDEAM (National Disability Employment Awareness Month) event was October 11th. Moran was the keynote speaker.

Project Search and SF BRN partnered to raise funds with a pancake breakfast. \$1000 was raised to benefit these two groups.

Mentoring Day was October 23rd. Nine young adults with disabilities participated.

White Cane Day was October 13th. Moran read the proclamation and approximately fifty people participated.

City personnel (Regan Smith, City Emergency Manager and Sandi Frentz, Public Health Manager) presented information to the DAC on emergency preparedness.

Nelson suggested the HRC involve Julie Briggs with the Humanitarian Award planning.

8. Public Comment –

9. Adjournment

Having no further business Chairperson Hariri adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carol Garry.