

MINUTES

Thursday, March 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, Bloom, Brennan (left at 12:55), Hariri, Haase, Knobloch, Owens (12:18p), and Simon. DAC liaison - Nelson
Absent: Aware, Carlson, and Guzman

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

Guests:

1. Call to Order/Welcome Guests/New Member

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

2. Approval of Minutes

Ahrendt moved to approve the February 9, 2012, meeting minutes, Bloom provided the second. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Status of Cases Report

Moran provided a report on the status of the open cases. There are currently twenty-one open cases. Eight were opened in February.

We recently had two requests for mediation. One case, the CP is still employed and the respondent thought it best to try to come to an agreement.

In an effort to find out how effective our marketing is, it was suggested we add how the CP heard about the Commission to the intake packet.

4. Appointment— March Case Panel – Panel B

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

Case Panel B – Aware, Brennan, Guzman, Owens, Knobloch

No cases were sent to the panel in February so Case Panel B will be appointed again to cover March. Three cases should be assigned in March.

Commission Chair: Vaney Hariri

Commission Vice Chair: Valorie Ahrendt

Commission 3rd Officer: Joanne Haase

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair – Vaney Hariri
Val Ahrendt
Joanne Haase

Staff – Colleen Moran

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chair – Maggie Owens
Joanne Haase
Steve Brennan
Vaney Hariri
Kathy Knobloch

Staff – Colleen Moran
Carol Garry

EVENTS COMMITTEE

Chair – Rod Carlson
Val Ahrendt
Qadir Aware
Katie Bloom
Sandra Guzman
Vaney Hariri
Kathy Knobloch
Dan Simon

Staff – Colleen Moran
Carol Garry

5. Continuing Business

a. Education Committee Report – Haase

The Committee met briefly after the last HRC meeting. They will be recommending which events the Commission should participate in this year. This will require an update to the HRC handouts. They will also determine which handouts to have at the event booths. The Committee will meet to make those decisions after today's HRC meeting.

b. Events Committee – Garry/Hariri

The first action item for the Events Committee will be a revamp of the H/Award nomination process. We found that the narrative proved to be a strong influence in the voting process. The revamped process could involve a personal interview with the nominee.

Ideally we would like to schedule time with CH 16 to take the nominees photos and include their video portion to add to our H/Award PSA.

The Committee's next meeting is March 16th @ 2:30pm.

c. Community Connections update – Hariri/Ahrendt/Moran

Previous sessions met with Finance, Transit, and Planning/ Zoning/Community Development. They meet with the various City departments and learn about what they do and the services that are available to the community. The latest session was at the Law Enforcement Center. Chief Barthel led a tour of the facility and explained the different areas. The group learned that a lot of the concerns they had, the Department was already trying to work out solutions/programs. The Chief realizes the benefit of developing a relationship with the citizens and has started with a program that has certain officers assigned to the different sections of the community. These officers will be familiar of what has taken place in their section and will provide a continuity of service to the area because they will be aware of the day –to- day issues.

Hariri believes it is important that the community not only contact the Department with their concerns but also any ideas that could improve its service to the community. It is great to get some community relationships established.

Hariri would like to see the information they are learning through the Community Connections program be more wide spread. It needs to be disseminated more effectively.

Human Resources and the Human Relations Commission will also be making a presentation to this group.

6. **New Business** – no new business was discussed.

7. **Disability Awareness Commission Report** – Nelson reported
The DAC's committees selected their chairpersons.
ARTAbility is going to be during Jan/Feb 2013. January 24th is set for the artist's reception.
The Awareness Committee will present at the BRN training in October.
Another new project is White Cane Day; another fall event.

8. **Public Comment** – no public present.

9. **Adjournment**
Having no further business Chairperson Hariri adjourned the meeting at 12:55 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carol Garry.