

MINUTES

Thursday, February 13, 2014



**Sioux Falls
Human Relations
Commission**

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

Commissioners:

Present: Bouwman, Haase, Harkness, Jones, Kaiser, Reichelt, Scere, Salihagic, and Walker. DAC liaison – Vicki Nelson

Absent: Brennan and Mortenson

Staff:

Carol Garry, Human Relations Technician

Guests:

1. Call to Order/Welcome Guests

Chairperson Haase called to order at 12:08pm.

2. Approval of Minutes

Reichelt moved to approve the December 12, 2013, meeting minutes, Jones provided the second. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Status of Cases Report

No report given as Human Relations Manager Moran was out of town attending a meeting.

The case that had a public hearing pending has a change in status. Due to having moved a significant distance away the Complaining Party has decided to accept an apology from the respondent in a conciliation agreement. The CP does not have the time or resources to pursue it further.

4. Civil Rights Update

In the absence of Moran, Chairperson Haase mentioned SD Senate Bill 67:
Purpose –

Provide protection to certain businesses or persons that decline to provide certain wedding services or goods due to the free exercise of religion.

This bill was withdrawn at the request of the prime sponsor. It was meant to allow businesses/persons to deny service to those seeking same sex marriage based on religious reasons.

Haase also mentioned a Nebraska town that passed an ordinance stating a renter had to be in here legally or they would be denied housing. (Post meeting research

shows the ordinance was passed in 2010 and the housing rules require anyone who rents a home or apartment to apply for a \$5 permit and attest to their legal status, but there is no mandate to show proof. New permits are needed for every move. The ordinance would also require landlords to make sure their tenants have permits or face a \$100 fine. A special vote was being held on 2/11 to drop the housing restrictions.)

This brought forth a discussion on housing discrimination and the best way to provide education regarding landlord/tenant rights and responsibilities. Harkness will contact her housing program providers for ideas.

5. **Appointment—February Case Panel – Case Panel B**

Brennan, Jones, Mortenson, Salihagic, and Haase

6. **Continuing Business**

a. Renewed discussion of the HRC website.

The Commission would like to know how many visitors go to the HRC website, how to make it more accessible – easier to find when on the City website and that it is on all of our brochures and flyers.

Chairperson Haase asks that members bring comments to the next meeting.

b. 2014 Humanitarian Award planning

The Commission discussed the pros and cons of the two different venues that have been used in the past – Avera Prairie Center and the Orpheum. The Orpheum has the stage which works well for entertainment and the award presentation. The Prairie Center takes a bit more work to get tables/chairs and table covers. The Prairie Center doesn't charge a fee for the room; the Orpheum charges us \$150 which is about the same as the cost of the tables/chairs/covers that we have to pay for at the Prairie Center.

Salihagic moved to have the 2014 Humanitarian Award at the Orpheum. Reichelt seconded. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Staff will consider dates and email to Commission.

Preparation Committees:

Nominations – Salihagic, Reichelt, & staff

Entertainment –Harkness

MC – Harkness

Food/venue – Kaiser

Logistics - ?

7. **New Business –**

a. **2014 Attendance at outreach events**

The Commission discussed the value in having a presence at community events. Most felt it is important that we are available to provide information regarding the commission at these events. In the past we have had a booth at Cinco de Mayo, the Festival of Cultures, Juneteenth, and the Diversity Conference.

Chairperson Haase reminded the Commission that participation in these events is a main part of their duties as commissioners and they need to step up and make a commitment.

Staff will send out the dates of the events we currently know about.

b. Refresh/change HRC materials/message – Due to time constraints, this was tabled until the next meeting.

8. Disability Awareness Commission Report:

ArtAbility – exhibit is March 3 – April 30. The Artists' reception is Friday, April 4th 6-8 pm.

Awareness – Disability Friendly Business sticker program has started. You can nominate businesses that hire people with disabilities on our website.

Citizens on Parking Patrol (COPP) Program is inching forward. City staff is working on ordinance language.

ADA Celebration – 2015 is the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act into law. The DAC is planning a big celebration. We are working on a golf tournament in 2014 to raise money for the 2015 event.

9. Public Comment –

No public comment was heard.

10. Adjournment

Having no further business Jones moved to adjourn; Scere seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carol Garry.