

# MINUTES

Thursday, July 20, 2017



Sioux Falls  
Human Relations  
Commission

12 Noon—1 p.m.  
Commission Room  
First Floor, City Hall

## Commissioners:

**Present:** John Jones, Bill Wood, Sarah Bouwman, Alex Ramirez, Jack Mortenson, James Larson, Henry Scere, Shirley Halleen

**Absent:** Stephen Brennan,

**Staff:** Colleen Moran, Assistant City Attorney

**DAC Member Present:** none

**Guests Present:** None

### 1. Call to Order/Welcome Guests

The meeting was called to order at 12:04 p.m.

### 2. Approval of Minutes

Halleen moved to approve the May 18, 2017 meeting minutes. Bouwman seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

### 3. Disability Awareness Commission

Moran provided information regarding the DAC. At its last meeting, guest speaker Mark Koterwski provided information regarding individuals with hearing disabilities and the difficulties some face in employment, education, and home life.

### 4. Compassionate Sioux Falls

Wood reported on the Compassionate Sioux Falls Living Library events and the Compassionate Sioux Falls videos.

### 5. New Business

- A. Moran reported that the Human Relations Office continues to receive a large number of housing discrimination complaints. The Office received approximately 135 housing contacts in June 2017.
- B. The Mayor will be soon selecting new Commission members.

### 6. Continuing Business

- A. Housing Project and Employment projects
  - a. Mortenson provided suggestions regarding possible projects.
  - b. Commission members offered suggestions of possible projects:
    1. Housing education classes for tenants
    2. Developing marketing materials

3. Utilizing a sticker program
4. Participating in community events and projects
5. Reaching out to businesses to provided housing information for employees
6. Providing information to a Spanish language newsletter
  - a. Larson provided a copy of his company's newsletter, which included information about the Human Relations Commission and housing

#### **7. Civil Rights Update**

Moran provided the civil rights update, which included a racial slur used to advertise a product on Walmart's website; she also provided information on a case filed by the DOJ alleging a landlord sexually harassed actual and perspective female residents and borrowers in violation of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Credit Opportunity Act.

#### **8. Public Comment**

A. None

#### **9. Adjournment**

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

***Minutes respectfully submitted by Colleen Moran. The next Human Relations Commission meeting will be September 21, 2017.***