

<b>MINUTES</b>	Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.	 CITY OF SIOUX FALLS
Human Relations Commission Meeting	Commission Room 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor – City Hall 224 W Ninth Street Sioux Falls, South Dakota	

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Alex Ramirez, Anny Libengood, Megan Myers, Bill Wood, Megan Grode Wolters, Justine Schoolmeester, Karen Gourley

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Kassidi Smith

**STAFF PRESENT:** Beth Jost

---

**CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 12:04 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Grode Wolters and seconded by Gourley to approve the minutes from the June 2020 meeting. Motion passed.

**BUSINESS OR PENDING ISSUES BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD**

**Election of a New Vice Chair:** Megan Myers was nominated for Vice Chair. She was elected unanimously.

**Potential Guests and Topics for Community Discussion Series:** The Commission discussed the Facebook live discussions that have occurred and what discussions they would like to have. Myers said that she has spoken to Vaney Hariri, and he has offered to help come up with some people that could be interviewed. Myers suggested that topics could be expanded to include a disabilities discussion. Myers also spoke to Phyllis Arends who is starting a local group for mental health support, and Phyllis is interested in attending a meeting. Ramirez suggested that the commission could also talk about some other issues that affect diversity such as awareness and access to programs in the community for kids. Libengood said the commission could get some information from Parks and Rec to find out how they market to different groups. The Commission discussed the possibility of guest speakers at each meeting.

Libengood wondered if the commission can have their own Facebook page and if it could be used to have talks or virtual tours that are informative, such as a tour of a mosque or sweat lodge. The Commission will try to find out if it is possible to have a Facebook page again.

Wood talked about how the Commission used to have a banquet and humanitarian award presented in the community. He would like to see an event like that put on by the Commission. The Commission discussed the need to clarify what the budget is for this kind of event. The Commission also discussed alternative ways to give out humanitarian awards to members of the community if a banquet is not possible. The marketing committee will try to meet with Haggar to get some clarification about what the Commission is able to do.

The Commission would also like to add action items to the agenda going forward. Libengood will reach out to someone at Parks and Rec about speaking at an upcoming meeting, and Ramirez will reach out to Colleen Moran.

### **HUMAN RELATIONS DIVISION STATISTICS**

There are currently 46 active discrimination cases, and the top three bases are race, disability, and national origin. In July the Human Relations Office had 82 walk-ins or phone calls regarding housing, and 39 regarding employment. In 2020 we have closed 16 discrimination cases and opened 14.

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

No public was present for public input.

### **NEXT MEETING**

September 10, 2020

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Gourley and seconded by Wood to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Jost  
Human Relations Specialist