

# Disability Awareness Commission

## Minutes

Museum of Visual Materials

May 20, 2009 3:00pm

### Call to Order

Co-chairperson Fiedler called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

Commission members present: Peggy Carmichael, Misty Farabee, Brad Friez, Nancy Johnson, Vicki Nelson, Ted Ornas and Amy Pokela

Commission members absent: Patty Brooks

Staff present: Carol Garry, Human Relations Assistant

Guest(s) present: Ryan Green, PVA and Jeremy Brech, Museum of Visual Materials

### Welcome Guests

### Approval of Minutes

**Carmichael moved to approve the April 15, 2009, meeting minutes; Farabee seconded. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved as presented.**

### Continuing Business

City/County Training Update – Ryan Green from PVA will be the main presenter at the awareness presentation scheduled for September 1 & 2; 9:30 – 11 and 1:30 – 3 each day. The ‘Ten Commandments for Communicating with People with Disabilities’ lasts for 25 minutes and his PowerPoint presentation is at least another 15 minutes. We decided we would ask the panel members to prepare 5 – 7 minutes on three topics/questions:

- 1) Introduce yourself and explain how your disability affects your life.
- 2) Discuss a personal, awkward/uncomfortable customer situation and how it could have been handled better.
- 3) What question do you think everyone would like to ask but is afraid to ask?

We need to be sure the presentations end on a positive note.

Pokela and Ornas have volunteered to be moderator/time keepers.

Possible panel members include Chelle Hart, Vicki Kerkvliet, Tom Kober, and Lance Sigdestad. Nelson will contact Hart, Johnson will contact Kerkvliet, Green will contact Tom Kober and Fiedler will contact Sigdestad. Once a response is received from the possible members, the contactors will email the group so we will know if we need to brainstorm more possibilities.

## 2009 Projects Update –

**Raised garden bed project** – Farabee has researched details and checked out sites. The Community Gardens has a strip of land to use for raised gardens by Falls Park. Now we need to decide if this is a project that we take on ourselves or do we find a group that can make it happen. It was decided to draft a letter to send to the Boy Scouts, ROTC, McCrossin's, Help!Line, and the high schools national honor societies to encourage their taking on this project. The letter will be reviewed at the next meeting, scheduled for July 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Art Exhibit** – The Commission met at the Museum of Visual Materials to review the venue as a possible site for an exhibit by citizens with disabilities. The venue can be rented for exhibits for a two month time period. An artist's reception could be held the first Friday of the month and would tie in with DTSF first Friday events. The next opening is Nov/Dec '09. The whole area rents for \$90, the south wall alone is \$65 and the smaller north wall is \$35. If you have a reception with wine/beer it is an additional \$75 for the license and outside catering is allowed. Art that can be hung from the walls works best.

Fiedler did talk to Deb Klebanoff, Ex. Director of the Sioux Empire Arts Council. The Horse Barn wouldn't work well as an exhibit space because it is a small area and not ADA friendly. Klebanoff is interested in helping us with other aspects of the exhibit e.g. the call for art, award criteria, etc.

The Commission agreed it would be more favorable to have the event during more clement weather than Nov/Dec's weather.

**Accessible Gas Station sticker** – We need to determine what is required of stations since most are self service. We will table this item until a later time.

NOD Award Update - The DAC will not make the NOD application process one of their projects in 2009. They will revisit this in the future year.

Hotel Guide Update – CVB didn't confirm the meeting with the DAC subcommittee and so they haven't yet gotten together.

## **New Business**

No new business was discussed.

## **HRC Report**

The HRC is preparing a PSA to publicize their request for nominations for the Humanitarian Award. The event will be September 22, 2009, at the Orpheum Theater. The subcommittee will work at securing a media sponsor for the event.

This year they will narrow the nominations to five finalists and vote from those five.

May election of HRC officers: Vaney Hariri, Chair; Clint Waara, V. Chair; and Teresa Luecke, Third Officer.

### **Public Comment**

No public comment.

### **Adjournment**

Having no further business, Carmichael moved and Nelson seconded to adjourn; the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2009, @ 3:00pm, HRC Conference Room, First Floor, City Hall. NO JUNE MEETING.

Minutes submitted by Carol Garry.