

Disability Awareness Commission

Minutes

Library Conference Room, Downtown Library

April 20, 2011 3:00pm

Call to Order

Co-chairperson Carmichael called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM.

Commission members present: Julie Briggs, Patty Brooks, Peggy Carmichael, Misty Farabee, Ardell Fiedler, Nancy Johnson, and Vicki Nelson.

Commission members absent: Travis Arneson, and Lynda O'Connor-Ohayon

Staff present: Carol Garry, Human Relations Assistant, Colleen Moran, Human Relations Manager/ADA Coordinator

Guest(s) present: Mayor Mike Huether

Welcome Guests

Mayor Huether introduced himself to the DAC members present. The Mayor asked what the focus of the group is. The response was education and awareness. The HRC is the enforcement arm and the ADA Accessibility Review Board reviews City buildings to ensure ADA compliance. Co-Chair Carmichael gave the Mayor a brief overview of the projects the DAC is currently working on. The Mayor offered to help get the DAC on the Convention & Visitors' Bureau agenda and made other marketing suggestions. He was interested in helping market the accessible gas station program. He also asked to be invited to the ArtAbility Artists' Reception.

Approval of Minutes

Farabee moved to approve the March 16, 2011, meeting minutes; Johnson seconded. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved .

Continuing Business

Spread the Word to End the Word (SWEW) – Staff contacted the agencies involved with the ADA Celebration about providing a place for this group to have a display/make a presentation. The YW was also contacted. Since they showed an interest, K. Scarry, who contacted the DAC, was provided with their contact information to see if they can work something out. Farabee reported that even though SWEW links to Special Olympics on their website, the local office has no connection to the group and are too limited in time and manpower to put something together.

Hotel Survey Update – Brooks reported

Brooks and Carmichael met to discuss a useable rating schedule. (Farabee could not attend.) Brooks proposed not using a rating system as it is too difficult to come up with a fair rating system especially without the committee doing a walk through to verify the self surveys. She suggested thanking/praising those who participated (the Mayor also suggested this), providing feedback to those venues where the committee performed a walk through, and then link to the actual surveys with a space for consumers to add a comment/review about the hotel and it's accessibility.

Once we get the hotel survey wrapped up, we can start looking at restaurants.

ArtAbility 2011– no meeting

Fiedler brought Brenda Smith's book – *Creativity Unleashed*. Fiedler has arranged for Smith to make a presentation at the Artists' Reception in November.

Awareness Training – Fiedler reported

Fiedler has gotten a commitment from Sanford to do awareness training for Sanford at their October conference.

The Diversity Council is interested in having a presentation at their November Conference. The Diversity Council would also like to include the DAC in their speaker's bureau that will be posted on their new website (2012) as a resource for businesses looking for presenters on various topics regarding diversity.

The SD Safety Council's conference is September 28. They will let us know in May if they are interested in a presentation.

Avera is still interested.

Fiedler has lost contact with the panelist who represented those with an intellectual disability – if anyone has his contact information, please let her know. If he can't be located, the committee needs to find someone else with a hidden disability to be on the panel.

Gas Station Stickers – No report

ADA Resource Library – no meeting.

Carmichael reported that a display of resources regarding disabilities is set for October during NDEAM.

New Business

NDEAM - Nelson reported

The NDEAM group is working with Voc Rehab on their fall conference, October 25 – 27, 2011. It will also include the BRN and the Dept. of Special Education. More detailed information at a later date.

Accessible Parking Surveys – staff presented the surveys submitted on the website for the past quarter plus. The DAC should decide if they need to put a formal follow-up in place or if they should discontinue providing the survey. Enforcement issues are handled by the ADA Coordinator or the Code Enforcement Officer after the person with the concern has informed the business. This allows the business the opportunity to correct/accommodate the concern.

HRC Report

The HRC has scheduled a public hearing on April 29th. This is the first in several years.

They also discussed their continuing marketing plans. They have secured two PSA billboards and a poster on the side of a bus for their 'Discrimination is Illegal' poster. The next phase of their marketing is 'Isn't That Ridiculous' campaign. This involves making a ridiculous statement about a person based on a facial characteristic, followed by the statement that discrimination is ridiculous.

The HRC received 14 applications for the five openings on the Commission. Two members have resigned along with three whose terms have been completed.

Public Comment

HRC Conference Room – the HRC conference room has been taken over by the real estate department. A new first floor conference room will be set up in another location and we will attempt to get our monthly meetings scheduled there.

Adjournment

Having no further business, **Brooks moved and Fiedler seconded to adjourn**; the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2011 @ 3:00pm, location to be determined.

Minutes submitted by Carol Garry.