

Disability Awareness Commission  
Minutes  
First Floor Conference Room, City Hall  
November 20, 2013 3:00pm

**Call to Order**

Co-chairperson Nelson called the meeting to order at 3:10P.M.

Commission members present: Kendra Gottsleben, Michelle Grimm, Vicki Nelson, Sheila Sandness.

Commission members absent: Julie Briggs, Chelle Hart, Kevin Horner, Lori Lewison, and Walt Schaefer

Staff present: Colleen Moran, Human Relations Manager and Carol Garry, Human Relations Technician

Guest(s) present: none present

**Welcome Guest(s)**

**Approval of Minutes**

The meeting minutes from September 18, 2013, were not approved due to lack of quorum.

**Continuing Business**

**Committees – Updates/Committee Assignments**

**ArtAbility** – Gottsleben (leader), Nelson, Sandness

The call for art has been sent and the deadline to submit an entry is February 2, 2013. The exhibit runs from March 2 – April 30. The artists' reception is scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm. Gustaf's will provide the flowers and Accent on Events will provide the food.

**Awareness** – Briggs (leader), Hart, Horner, Nelson

Recent awareness events include Mentoring Day, NDEAM, White Cane Law Day March and a booth at the 2013 Diversity Conference.

**COPP** – Lewison, Schaefer, Horner, staff

The committee met with representatives from the police and public parking. Both were very supportive and will assist in developing the program. The police will provide training and public parking will work with us on the details of issuing

tickets. Changes to the existing ordinance will need to be made to allow for volunteers to issue citations.

**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ADA** - Lori Lewison, Kendra Gottsleben, Vicki Nelson, and Michelle Grimm

Garry reported on the meeting with the existing ADA Celebration Committee – there were five people at that meeting. The group discussed what kind of event they thought we should have. Ideas included a conference with training opportunities (w/ CEU credits) and include an art exhibit. Also have vendor exhibits showing the latest in adaptive technology and/or tour of the adaptive gym. Suggested side events were golf tournament, torch run, a presentation by Leslye Orr (visually impaired speaker). Other organizations that we should try to get involved: VA, Directions for Life, NAMI, SD Urban Indian Health, and National Federation of the Blind. We could also check with the HelpLine to determine other existing disability organizations to include. The discussion then turned to who our target audience would be – what is our goal. That list includes: promoting awareness, celebrating the anniversary, and education. The group didn't feel a need to meet until after the first of the year – 2014.

Today's discussion was more brainstorming. Nelson thought we should look at what other states are doing and she will investigate. Other ideas were to have a luncheon recognizing employers, training with different tracks for different groups i.e. voc rehab counselors, educators, ADA coordinators, and adaptive equipment display/demonstration. Any training should include CEU's – a big draw.

In 2015, the anniversary falls on a Sunday so we'd need to plan for a week day event. If there was a race for or a golf tournament those could be on the weekend with the day before or after be the conference. These events could also happen in 2014 as a fundraiser for the 2015 event.

It all comes back to a main focus or target audience. This led to discussions on making it about health/wellness - active abilities.

Nothing was decided and we will continue discussing at the next board meeting.

### **New Business**

There was no new business discussed.

### **HRC Report**

No HRC report was given.

## **Roundtable/Public Comment**

Nelson – She's been busy attending conferences – Voc Rehab, NDEAM, Diversity Conference. One of their voc rehab counselors left and a new one has started.

Gottsleben – She's been recovering from near pneumonia. She's learning about working on the Center's website. She ran into a young lady she knows who uses a wheelchair and is working at Old Navy.

Sandness – She got a new cockatiel, named B2. She's been working out three times a week at the adaptive gym.

Grimm – She presented at the NDEAM's October 3<sup>rd</sup> event. She presented on mental illness. Approximately eighty businesses attended the event.

Moran – Approximately 300 people attended the 2013 Diversity Conference. Brendan Johnson was the keynote speaker – his topic was SD Civil Rights – Past, Present, and Future.  
There were 8-10 participants in this year's mentoring day.

## **Adjournment**

**The meeting adjourned at 4:00p.m.**

No December meeting is scheduled. Instead, members are invited to attend the December 12<sup>th</sup> Human Relations Commission meeting.

The next DAC meeting is scheduled for January 15<sup>th</sup>, 3p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room, City Hall.

These notes submitted by Carol Garry.