

Disability Awareness Commission
Minutes
First Floor Conference Room, City Hall
March 18, 2015 3:00pm

Call to Order

Co-Chair Walt Schaefer called the meeting to order at 3:05 P.M.

Commission members present: Deb Aden, Kevin Horner (left @ 4), Sarah Jo Jorgensen, Sheila Sandness, and Walt Schaefer

Commission members absent: Kendra Gottsleben, Chelle Hart, and Lori Lewison

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

Guest(s) present: None

Welcome Guest(s)

The new Human Rights Community Coordinator, Vandhana Baireddy was introduced. She started with the Human Relations office on March 2, 2015. Baireddy was born in India and has lived in Sioux Falls since 2008.

Approval of Minutes

Jorgensen moved to approve the meeting minutes from February 12, 2015. Aden seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Continuing Business

Committees – Updates

ArtAbility (Gottsleben, Sandness, and Jorgensen - Leader – Gottsleben) –

The deadline for submitting an entry for ArtAbility was February 9, 2015. There were plenty of entries. Garry reported approximately 65 artists and 93 pieces of artwork.

The Committee is working on the program for the artists' reception on April 10th.

Awareness (Horner, Hart, Grimm and Aden – Leader –Aden) –

Horner reported on some recent adaptive events – skiing and hockey.

Sled hockey is new this year and had 20 – 25 participants. The US Olympic Committee was very helpful in putting this event together and provided the necessary equipment.

25th Anniversary of the ADA (Lori Lewison, Deb Aden, Kendra Gottsleben, and Michelle Grimm- Leader – Lewison) –

The committee is working on putting together a sponsorship list. The save-the-date cards will go out soon. Vendor space is limited. The program committee is

working on sessions that will attract the community as a whole and adaptive wellness should be included.

Projects for 2015

COPPS – Horner provided some information to Moran regarding what other communities are doing with volunteers patrolling accessible parking spaces. Moran will continue to work on this project.

Barrier Awareness – Garry provided a list of activities prepared by a committee associated with the ADA Celebration a few years ago, though they had not completed the arrangements to hold a barrier awareness day.

Presentations – Some suggestions for presentations were: SALSA (Serve and Learn Student Association), Special Education Conference, Friendslink, and school system's teacher in-service meetings.

New Business

No new business was discussed.

HRC Report

Aden updated the DAC on the HRC March meeting. There was continued discussion on the Hariri/Wolf project and it was decided no further action would be taken until more is learned about the project.

The HRC is providing outreach at the Cinco de Mayo event on May 9th.

Moran had reported about an organization that helps people with disabilities that fired a person with a disability. And about another case where a company fired the newly hired HR director when she told them she was pregnant.

Roundtable/Public Comment

Sandness – Sheila is being recognized as Volunteer of the Month at ILC. The recognition is sponsored by MetaBank and the HelpLine.

Jorgensen – Not much going on at work. She is cantor-ing at her church during Lent.

Schaefer – April 12 is LifeScape's pancake feed at the convention center. Walt is serving as 'chief batter-maker'. Tablescapec is coming up and will be at the Hilton Garden Inn this year.

Horner – Kevin has been participating in a 10- week Farrell’s extreme body-shaping challenge. 3/21 is the final day of the challenge.

Aden – Deb is going to be celebrating her 60th birthday and is having a party on April 4th at the Hilton Garden Inn. She also has enjoyed Bob Seger in concert in Sioux Falls.

Baireddy – Today is Vandhana’s birthday. She will be celebrating this weekend by shopping at the outlet mall in Nebraska

Moran – Colleen is learning how to curl – the Olympic sport everyone can do.

Public Comment: No comments.

Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

(Quorum was lost at 4pm when Horner had to leave, therefore no formal motion to adjourn)

The next DAC meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2015, 3p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room, City Hall.

These minutes submitted by Carol Garry.