

MINUTES

Thursday, November 12, 2009



**Sioux Falls
Human Relations
Commission**

12 Noon—1 p.m.
Commission Room, First Floor
City Hall
224 West Ninth Street

Commissioners: Present: Abbott, Ahrendt, Aware, Guzman, Hariri, Lodu, Luecke, Rist, Waara, Williams, and DAC Liaison, Farabee.

Absent: Carlson

Staff: Gary Colwill, Human Relations Manager; and Carol Garry, Human Relations Assistant.

Guests: Andre Oliver, NAACP

1. Call to Order/Welcome Guests

- Chairperson Hariri called the meeting to order at 12:07 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes

- Rist moved to approve the minutes from the August 13, 2009, meeting; Lodu provided the second. The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

3. Status of Cases/Staff Report

- Colwill updated the Commission on the status of the open cases. The oldest case going through some rewrites but should be ready for the case panel by next week. Still working on getting the out of state witnesses for the next oldest case. The next one needs current documentation regarding complainant's disability.
- The HRC is currently using a volunteer investigator to assist with case management. We stopped using the contracted investigator due to budget cuts.
- Aware wanted to know if there was anything the Commission could do to move cases along. Colwill suggested revisiting this after the first of the year to see where we are at then.

4. Appointment—November Case Panel

- Aware, Hariri, Guzman, Rist, and Luecke

5. Continuing Business

Commission Chair: Vaney Hariri

Commission Vice Chair: Clint Waara

Commission 3rd Officer: Teresa Luecke

HUMANITARIAN AWARD COMMITTEE
Chair—Terry Rist
Karla Abbott
Rod Carlson
Vaney Hariri
Wanda Harris
Jeff Munce

HUD Contract Committee
Karla Abbott
Qadir Aware
Rod Carlson
Vaney Hariri
Terry Rist
Clint Waara

PSA Committee
Sandra Guzman
James Lodu
Teresa Luecke—Chair
Dwayne Williams
Kathy Rustwick
Billie Jo Waara

a. HUD Fair Housing Update

- In March '09 a draft of the modified Chapter 21 1/2 of SF Ordinance was sent to HUD to be reviewed to determine if the HRC could become a Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP) agency.
- HRC was later notified that no new contracts would be considered for FY 2010 due to federal budget limits. Staff requested HUD complete the review so any necessary changes to the Ordinance could be made in anticipation of a contract.
- In a letter dated October 20, 2009, Ken Carroll, Director of Fair Housing Assistance Program Division sent a detailed report on the changes necessary to make the Ordinance substantially equivalent – 10 pages of suggestions.
- If any Commission members would like to review the report, let staff know and it will be sent out.
- The next step is to see what the City wants to do. Staff is reluctant to move ahead without input from the City Attorney and the Mayor. The subcommittee may decide to meet in a few weeks to discuss options.

b. Diversity Conference Update

- 350 attendees have registered for the November 18, 2009, Diversity Conference. Let Colwill know if you'd like to attend. Aware recommends using the east door on Main Avenue and the parking is north of the area, past 4th Street.

6. New Business

a. NAACP Presentation

- Andre Oliver is the vice president of the local NAACP chapter and has joined the Commission today to present information about the local chapter along with its relationship with the national charter. The NAACP is being reestablished in SD, based in Sioux Falls.
- The NAACP local chapter has set up an office in the Multi-Cultural Center and the office is staffed Monday and Thursday afternoons. Will McBeth is the local chapter president.
- Education is a promising place to begin and Black History Month is a great place to start. Also, the state convention will be held in conjunction with Juneteenth celebration.

b. Brainstorm/Gather Ideas to Market HRC

- Hariri feels the Commission is going through an identity crisis and we need to think of ways to let the community know about our value and what we do. We

can start by seeking out ways to speak to community groups – anything that will further our presence.

- Take some time to think of some marketing strategies and be prepared to discuss them at the next meeting.
- Anyone wanting to be involved should let staff know. We could dissolve the PSA committee and resurrect it as the Marketing Committee.
- Aware suggested we put posters in/on the busses.

7. Disability Awareness Commission Report

- The DAC has formed an Awareness Training Committee to coordinate efforts for having more panel presentations in the community. This grew from the successful trainings for the City and County employees. The Committee has put together a presentation for a housing group and will present at the Diversity Conference.
- The DAC projects update:
 - ArtAbility, the art exhibit for artists with disabilities June/July 2010 at the Museum of Visual Materials has secured Accents on Events to cater the artist's reception and KELO TV to be their media sponsor.
 - The raised bed garden project has received bids for the building materials and plans to build them in the spring at the community garden area at North Falls Park.

8. Public Comment

- Oliver asked that if anyone has any ideas for the Martin Luther King holiday celebration or for Black History month, let him know. Aware said the first meeting is next week. They will be having the prayer breakfast again.

9. Adjournment

Rist moved to adjourn; Waara seconded. The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carol Garry.