

MINUTES

Thursday, February 9, 2012



**Sioux Falls
Human Relations
Commission**

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

Commissioners: Present: Ahrendt, Bloom, Brennan (left at 12:55), Hariri, Haase, Knobloch, and Simon. DAC liaison - Briggs

Absent: Aware, Carlson, Guzman, and Owens

Staff: Colleen Moran, Human Relations Manager and Carol Garry, Human Relations Assistant

Guests:

1. Call to Order/Welcome Guests/New Member

Chairperson Hariri called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Bloom moved to approve the December 8, 2011, meeting minutes, Ahrendt provided the second. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Status of Cases Report

Moran provided a report on the status of the open cases. Fewer mediations over the past year were noted. Most CP's are willing to mediate but unless the Respondent agrees it is not pursued.

There has been a steady increase in the number of complainants going through the intake process which naturally leads to more complaints being filed.

Complainants are now being offered the opportunity to provide their rebuttal statements in person with the investigator. This should help speed up the process.

4. Appointment— February Case Panel – Panel B

Case Panel A - Ahrendt, Bloom, Carlson, Haase and Simon

Case Panel B – Aware, Brennan, Guzman, Owens, Knobloch

Commission Chair: Vaney Hariri

Commission Vice Chair: Valorie Ahrendt

Commission 3rd Officer: Joanne Haase

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair – Vaney Hariri
Val Ahrendt
Joanne Haase

Staff – Colleen Moran

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chair – Maggie Owens
Joanne Haase
Steve Brennan
Vaney Hariri
Kathy Knobloch

Staff – Colleen Moran
Carol Garry

EVENTS COMMITTEE

Chair – Rod Carlson
Val Ahrendt
Qadir Aware
Katie Bloom
Sandra Guzman
Vaney Hariri
Kathy Knobloch
Dan Simon

Staff – Colleen Moran
Carol Garry

5. Continuing Business

a. Hand out 'Awareness Wear' –

The Commissioners received their shirts with the HRC logo for them to wear to create awareness for the Commission. They were given several style and color choices to choose from.

b. Education Committee Report – Input from the Commission on how best to follow-up with questionnaires from the Diversity Conference.

The Education Committee has not met since the Diversity Conference so they have not decided on the best way to respond to those who expressed an interest in receiving more information about the HRC. Commissioners' suggestions include sending a letter to those who filled out the survey to see what their specific interest is or sending a letter to all who attended – if we can get the contact information from the Conference organizers.

The City website is changing and the latest target launch date is February 14th. The HRC site needs more work. Staff would encourage the Commission to check out the new format and send their comments back to staff. If there is anything the Commission would like to see added, please let staff know.

A Commissioner suggested that we need to provide quick information that is more available to the public especially those who do not have internet access, watch Channel 16, or where language is a barrier.

We still need to get the information out that the HRC is the place to go with concerns about discrimination. Educate the complaining parties on what they need for their complaints to be successful.

Briggs offered to put something – at least a link on the BRN site. This site reaches a lot of human resources people.

c. Review planned projects and discuss priorities and timelines

Events other than the Humanitarian Award – Juneteenth, Festival of Cultures, and Cinco de Mayo would provide the HRC exposure to those we are trying to reach – for little or no cost. We have the 'booth materials' we just need commitments from the Commission to cover the booth. Non-commission members could be involved and it would be a good activity to promote youth involvement in our mission.

6. New Business

a. Review Committee memberships

Commissioner Knobloch hasn't been assigned to a committee yet and has agreed to serve on both the Education and Events Committees.

b. Community Connections Update – Leadership Program

This is a group of nine individuals who have a presence in the community, who meet twice a month with different City departments to learn/get information from them that they can share with their personal circle of friends/relations. It is hopeful that the group will bring fresh ideas to city government that will be useful to put into practice.

Hariri reported that the first two were very informative. The first one was the Finance department. We all know that money drives projects but it is interesting to learn where the money comes from and if there are certain obligations/ties that go along with the funds. For instance, what projects can the money be used for, or which areas of city government the money has to be spent?

SAM – Sioux Area Metro was the second presentation. Hariri feels developing marketing would increase ridership but could also increase revenue like bus advertising.

Hariri feels it would be great if the presentations could be taped to provide access to a larger audience but be sure to include the question and answer sessions.

7. Disability Awareness Commission Report – Briggs reported

Julie Briggs and Vicki Nelson are the new co-chairs for the DAC, replacing Peggy Carmichael and Misty Farabee.

Two new projects, Mentoring Day and Citizens on Parking Patrol join the other 2012 projects, ARTability, Awareness Training, and October Library display.

Mentoring Day is planned for October and the DAC will be partnering with the BRN. The goal is to bring dual awareness - to the students being mentored who will learn about the working world and to the mentors who will learn all the things people with disabilities can do.

Citizens on Parking Patrol – COPP – is planned as a group of volunteers who monitor accessible parking violations. Staff is researching what other communities are doing to prevent illegal parking in the accessible parking spaces.

8. Public Comment – no public present.

9. Adjournment

Having no further business Chairperson Hariri adjourned the meeting at 1:05 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carol Garry.