

Disability Awareness Commission

Minutes

Human Relations Conference Room

November 19, 2008 3:00pm

Call to Order

Co-chairperson Fiedler called the meeting to order at 3:06 PM.

Commission members present: Peggy Carmichael, Misty Farabee, Ardell Fiedler, Brad Friez, Nancy Johnson and Amy Pokela.

Commission members absent: Patty Brooks, Brett Johnson, and Mary Hurd.

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

Guest(s) present: Ryan Green, PVA, Jane Hannestad, City Human Resources Manager and Jenny Adix, County Human Resources Generalist.

Welcome Guests

Approval of Minutes

Fiedler moved to approve the October 15, 2008, meeting minutes; Carmichael seconded. The meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Continuing Business

Metro Communications – Job Recruitment – the representative from Metro had to cancel.

People First Language- Awareness Training for city/county employees – Jane Hannestad, HR Manager for the City and Jenny Adix, HR Generalist for Minnehaha County were present to discuss the possibility of putting together awareness training for frontline, direct customer contact employees for both the city and the county. Ryan Green shared what he has been doing for similar training. A cornerstone of his training is the 25 minute video – “Ten Commandments of Communicating with People with Disabilities.” The DAC would put together a program that would combine the DVD with a panel made up of individuals with disabilities from the various agencies. The focus of the presentation should be customer service. We would need to provide several sessions to accommodate people from the same office being able to attend at different times for office coverage purposes. We’re considering a late spring timeframe.

NOD Award Update – The application is now on the NOD website. The application assignments were reviewed and additional thoughts on what to add and to what sections to add them were discussed. Each part of the application should be submitted to staff prior to December 12, 2008, to allow for putting it together.

Hotel Guide – Pokela talked with the CVB and they would like to get the self survey for accessibility to their webmaster to get it ready for the CVB website. Once it has been turned it the DAC will be added to their agenda to discuss training for area hotel staff. It should be noted that the SD Special Olympics will be in Sioux Falls May 14-17, 2009. The games will be at Washington High School.

New Business

HRC Report

At the November HRC meeting Colwill updated the Commission on the 2008 Diversity Conference. There were approximately 200 attendees, despite the weather. The training was provided by the Rochester Diversity Council.

The Diversity Council is looking to define its role as they begin their second year.

The HRC is forming subcommittees to work on PSA's for the HRC and for the Humanitarian Award and to put together a plan of action in pursuit of a Fair Housing contract with HUD.

Public Comment

No public was present

Adjournment

Pokela informed the DAC she not be seeking reappointment when her term ends in May 2009.

Having no further business, Carmichael moved to adjourn; Farabee seconded; the meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2008, @ 3:00pm, Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall.

Action Plan for December 17, 2008:

- submit NOD application sections by 12/12
- review status of hotel guide

Minutes submitted by Carol Garry.