

# Disability Awareness Commission

## Minutes

Second Floor Meeting Room

January 16, 2008 3:00pm

### Call to Order

Co-chairperson Johnson called the meeting to order at 3:00PM.

Commission members present: Patty Brooks, Peggy Carmichael, Misty Farabee, Brad Friez, Nancy Johnson, Ardell Fiedler, and Brett Johnson

Commission members absent: Mary Hurd and Amy Pokela

Staff present: Carol Garry

Guest(s) present: Sarah Weese, Jane Houseman and Sarah

### Welcome Guests

Sarah Weese and Jane Husman are with the Department of Labor's Navigator's Program. Sarah Schiferl is an intern with the SD Rehab Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

### Approval of Minutes

**Brooks moved to approve the October 10, 2007, meeting minutes; Carmichael seconded. The meeting minutes were approved as presented.**

### Election of Officers

Per ordinance; election of officers occurs in January or the first meeting of the year, annually.

Through staff, Hurd moved to nominate Ardell Fiedler and Amy Pokela as co-chairs; Farabee seconded. Farabee moved to nominate Peggy Carmichael as the third officer; Brooks seconded. The vote was unanimous.

The slate of officers is: Co-Chair – Ardell Fiedler and Amy Pokela; Third Officer – Peggy Carmichael. They will serve until January 2009.

Fiedler will represent the DAC on the ADA Celebration Planning Committee and Mary Hurd will continue to be liaison for the HRC.

### Continuing Business

NOD Award – No word on a winner for the Accessible America Award.

JAN Training - DAC has not been sponsoring any of the JAN webcasts so far. Staff did not receive sufficient notice they were starting again to get anything set up. Fiedler checked and there are no plans to change the time or day of the week

(1pm the second Tuesday of the month.) We thought we may have more turnout if they started a half hour later; maybe more SHRM members could attend.

Jane Husman stated that the webcasts are being offered without charge (it was increased to \$35). Staff will send out notice to those who attended last year's sessions so they know they can sign up on their own.

### **New Business**

Create Plan of Action for CVB Accessible Hotel Guide – The initial plan was to have the CVB prepare a cover letter to send out with the self- survey that the DAC will prepare. Brooks will check with the CVB regarding the status of the cover letter. We will work towards getting the letter and self-survey in the mail by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

We discussed how we verify what the respondent's claim and how to show their rating. A couple of ideas were to approach the hotel about getting a room at no cost to verify or to have a group that would function as accessibility testers. Also maybe have a place for 'testimonials' on the CVB website where customers can share their good experiences.

Farabee stated we should try to have this in place by 2009 when Sioux Falls will be the location for the SD Special Olympics; also in 2010 and 2011.

Another awareness activity for the DAC to sponsor could be awareness/sensitivity training for the hotels' staff – trained before the Special Olympics starts.

Fiedler will have SD Rehab's Assistive Tech look at the CVB website and check the links to be sure they are accessible as we claimed in our NOD application.

### **HRC Report**

The HRC office will move from its current location in the Human Resources Office on Second Floor to the NW corner of the First Floor. The entrance is just past the elevator.

### **Public Comment**

No public comment

### **Adjournment**

Having no further business, **Brooks moved to adjourn, Carmichael seconded.** The meeting adjourned at 4:05p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 20, @ 3:00pm, City Hall. The meeting room may change to the HRC Conference Room. Watch the agenda for the location.

Minutes submitted by Carol Garry.