

# Disability Awareness Commission

## Minutes

Human Relations Conference Room

March 18, 2009 3:00pm

### Call to Order

Co-chairperson Fiedler called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM.

Commission members present: Patty Brooks, Peggy Carmichael, Misty Farabee, Ardell Fiedler, Brad Friez, Nancy Johnson, Vicki Nelson (arrived – 3:27p)

Commission members absent: Amy Pokela and Ted Ornas

Staff present: Carol Garry, Human Relations Assistant

Guest(s) present:

### Welcome Guests

### Approval of Minutes

**Brooks moved to approve the February 18, 2009, meeting minutes; Carmichael seconded. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved as presented.**

### Continuing Business

City/County Training Update – The training has been scheduled for September 1 & 2, 2009, at in the Anne Zabel Studio Theater at the Orpheum Theater Center. Sessions will be 9:30 – 11 AM and 1:30 – 3 PM on both days. A flyer was prepared and will be available online to City and County employees.

We will start the planning at the April 15, 2009, meeting. The Commission will review the 10 Commandments DVD. (Note: Fiedler will not be able to attend/chair the April meeting, Farabee will chair.) We will invite Ryan Green to the April meeting so he has input with our plans.

Inclusion Expo Report – Ornas was unable to attend the Inclusion Expo and the Commission discussed paying for his share of the booth space, \$75. **Friez made a motion to have the DAC pay for half of the booth they shared with Black Hills Special Services; Johnson seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.** Garry stated staff will need an invoice in order to make payment.

There were approximately 150 attendees at this year's Expo; in the past attendance averaged around 400. The number of booth sponsors was down for this year's event also. The change in venue paid off in having a separate space for the breakout sessions vs. curtained off areas at the exhibit hall.

There were 75 attendees at the breakfast. The keynote speaker, Jennifer Erickson from Camille's was very good. She did a nice job demonstrating how people with disabilities make great long term employees. Fiedler did a good job

talking about the NOD Accessible America Award and promoting the work of the DAC.

It was suggested that the BLN move the event back downtown to make it easier for consumers who use the bus to get there on their own.

Hotel Guide Update – The survey is on the CVB's website [www.siouxfallscvb.com](http://www.siouxfallscvb.com). We are waiting to meet with the CVB to discuss the letter they will send to their members about participating in the survey.

## **New Business**

### **Projects for 2009** –

CHEER Program – Consciousness Helps Encourage Equal Respect – program that involves student's 'adopting' a disability for a day. It was suggested that someone contact Bev Peterson at the school district to see if they would be interested. Celebrity involvement might help promote/create awareness of the program. It might be a good idea to start with middle school age as they tend to be more open without attitudes. They could make it a competition; maybe 'run' an obstacle course or an Olympic themed competition. Nelson will check with the school district.

NOD Application – Do we want to make this a project again? We will decide after the 2009 winner is announced.

Raised Bed Garden – We can ask to have at least one raised bed at the community gardens. This should be a very easy project since the community gardens are already in place. Farabee will make contact with Parks & Rec.

Art Exhibit – This would involve finding a venue for the exhibit, e.g. the Sidewalk Arts Festival, the Pavilion, a coffee bistro; putting out a call for art from people with disabilities; selecting the exhibits and getting the word out about the event. Fiedler and Ornas will make contacts regarding a venue.

Poster contest – Students with disabilities (or maybe just students) make a poster for the ADA Celebration.

Resources brochure – a disability services brochure with programs and services available to PWD.

A brochure for businesses –develop an accessibility guideline on how to make businesses accessible for PWD.

Accessible gas station sticker – a program to designate which gas stations accommodate PWD using a decal. Nelson will contact Vicki Kerkvliet about how this works for her.

### **HRC Report**

PSA subcommittee is hoping to meet to start developing PSA's for the Commission and for the Humanitarian Award.

### **Public Comment**

Fiedler told the Commission about the Transportation Coordination Committee – a group that meets to streamline public transit services. If anyone from the DAC is interested in attending/joining, let Fiedler know.

Nelson updated the Commission about the Leadership & Diversity Training on June 12, 2009. Contact Nelson for more information or go to the diversity events calendar on the City's website.

Johnson relayed information about the one – time Economic Recovery Payment of \$250 available to people on SS, SSI, disabled veterans benefits, or railroad retirement benefits. More information is available at the agency that pays the benefit. Payments should be received by late May.

### **Adjournment**

Having no further business, Carmichael moved and Friez seconded to adjourn; the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2009, @ 3:00pm, HRC Conference Room, First Floor, City Hall.

**PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL NOT BE A DAC MEETING IN JUNE, 2009.**

Minutes submitted by Carol Garry.