

Disability Awareness Commission  
Minutes  
First Floor Conference Room, City Hall  
July 17, 2013 3:00pm

**Call to Order**

Co-chairperson Nelson called the meeting to order at 3:05P.M.

Commission members present: Julie Briggs, Kendra Gottsleben, Michelle Grimm, Kevin Horner, Vicki Nelson, Sheila Sandness and Walt Schaefer.

Commission members absent: Chelle Hart and Lori Lewison

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

Guest(s) present: Jen Geffre, intern with Rehab Services and Ryan Leauseng, intern with SD Human Services.

**Welcome Guest(s)**

Welcome to guests and new DAC members. Roundtable introductions were done. Staff distributed the Commission's board books and briefly explained their contents.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Schaefer moved to approve the May 15, 2013, minutes; - Grimm seconded.**  
The meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

**Continuing Business**

Committees - Updates –

**Awareness** –

National Disability Employment Awareness Month is October. October 3 is the date for the local event – a breakfast meeting/presentation at Sanford Research sponsored by BRN and other organizations.

Disability Mentoring Day is October 24, 2013. The SF School District has shown an interest in participating. They students will spend the morning with their mentors and close the program with a luncheon. Any interested employers and students should contact Briggs.

ArtAbility is set for March/April 2014- this is an art show/exhibit for artists with disabilities.

**New Business**

## Review Projects/Assign Committees -

Other projects not already discussed that the Commission is active in:

- Partner with BRN on 'Disability Friendly Business Program'. This program seeks to nominate and recognize businesses that (1) employ people with disabilities and (2) their business is accessible
- COPPS – 'Citizens on Parking Patrol – volunteer program that issues parking violations to those illegally parked in designated accessible parking spaces. Currently need to meet with Police representative to get buy in from the department and get input on program's guidelines.

When asked what other programs the Commission should consider undertaking the following are some of the responses.

- Horner would like to develop more programs/opportunities for people with disabilities in the area of sports, recreation, and fitness
- Grimm would like to work to lift the stigma of mental health
- Moran suggested putting together PSAs to run on CH 16 on issues like mental health and service animals
- 2015 is the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ADA a big awareness event is being considered. This could be a venue for ArtAbility in 2015. A conference with speakers/breakout sessions on disability issues would be fitting.

For the next couple of meetings we should discuss how to approach the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary event and who (organizations) should be involved with the planning.

## **HRC Report**

The election of officers tabled from the May meeting took place now that the full Commission was in place. Haase is chairperson, Salihagic is vice chair, and Reichelt is the third officer.

The Community Connections program will take place on August 21 & 22. The program exposes citizens to the inner workings of City government.

The 2013 Humanitarian Award event is scheduled for Thursday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at the Prairie Center.

## **Roundtable/Public Comment**

Nelson – Project Search starts again in August.

Briggs – She's going to be a grandma in a couple of weeks.

Moran – nothing to report

Gottleben – Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day is September 9<sup>th</sup>.

Grimm – She will be speaking at the NDEAM event.

Sandness – nothing to report

Horner – He's very busy at work – six therapists have left and not been replaced yet.

Schaefer - Achieve is going through accreditation process.  
GreenSTAR Symposium is scheduled for September 27<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 a - 4:30 p. For more information go to the link listed below.

[https://secure-achievesd.org/greenstar/Event\\_Information/index.htm](https://secure-achievesd.org/greenstar/Event_Information/index.htm)

### **Adjournment**

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 21, 2013 @ 3:00pm, First Floor Meeting Room, City Hall.

Minutes submitted by Carol Garry.