

Disability Awareness Commission
Minutes
First Floor Conference Room, City Hall
October 28, 2015 3:00pm

Call to Order

Co-Chair Walt Schaefer called the meeting to order at 3:07 P.M.

Commission members present: Kendra Gottsleben, Sarah Jo Jorgensen, Walter Schaefer, Tana Zwart, Joyce Heiser, Kevin Horner, Sheila Sandness.

Commission members absent: Deb Aden, Lori Lewison.

Staff present: Colleen Moran, Human Relations Manager and Brooke Pape, Human Relations Intern

Guest(s) present: Sandy Frentz, Regan Smith

Call to Order

Co-Chair Walter Schaefer called the meeting to order at 3:03 P.M.

Welcome Guest(s)

The committee welcomed Sandy Frentz and Regan Smith to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Jorgensen moved to approve the meeting minutes from August 19, 2015. Gottsleben seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Disability Rights Update

Moran provided disability rights updates by reviewing three recent legal cases. In the first case, the EEOC settled a claim of discrimination based on disability with a Tennessee plasma biological service. An employee was placed on a deferred donor list after he tested for a viral marker. However, after the employee's supervisor learned the employee had been placed on the list, he immediately terminated the employee's employment.. Subsequent tests showed the first test was a false positive . The employee was awarded \$60,000.

The second case involved a lawsuit alleging violations of the Fair Housing Act and the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Department of Justice sued a building company in West Virginia for designing and constructing twenty-three residential properties with barriers that make them inaccessible to persons with disabilities. The third case involved a claim of discrimination based on disability. An employee had surgery for prostate cancer eventually, he was cleared to return to work without restrictions. The employer would not allow the employee to return to work, but, instead,

ordered the employee to take extended leave; the employee was later fired for violating the leave policy..

Continuing Business

A. ArtAbility (Gottsleben, Sandness, and Jorgensen - Leader – Gottsleben)

- a. Gottsleben reported that the committee finalized the call for art poster, which has been distributed. The deadline for submitting entries is January 29th. Zwart contacted Accent on Events catering, who is willing to donate the same amount of food as last year. The art will be displayed in March and April; the reception will take place April 8th 2016, from 6-8 P.M.

B. Ms. Wheelchair South Dakota

- a. Gottsleben and Moran reported on the Ms. Wheelchair South Dakota event, which was held on September 27th. Kristi Eisenbraun was crowned Ms. Wheelchair South Dakota. Kristi is interesting in attending a future DAC meeting.

C. White Cane March

- a. Moran reported that the White Cane Law Day Event was held on October 10th. About 75 people attended the event, which included a short march followed by the viewing of a video and discussion at the Main Library. The video can be viewed on the City's YouTube Channel.

New Business

A. Emergency Management Presentation – Sandy Frentz, City of Sioux Falls Health Department and Regan Smith, City of Sioux Falls Emergency Manager

- a. Frentz and Smith provided information to the Commission members on the plans the City has in place for emergency management. The City works closely with local organizations to help ensure at-risk and vulnerable populations are prepared for an emergency. Smith explained that accessible emergency shelters have been identified and would be available should an emergency arise. Frentz provided Commission members with Emergency Preparedness booklets filled with checklists and tips for emergency preparation. The booklets specifically address preparedness for individuals with activity limitations and disabilities. Commission members were encouraged to share the information and were informed that the information was also available on the City's website. Commission members were invited to share any concerns or ideas with Smith and Frentz.

B. Establish Committee Meeting Time

- a. Schaefer suggested a reorganization of the Commission meetings. He proposed addressing agenda items for the first 30 minutes of the meeting,

and then committee meetings for the final 30 minutes. The Commission agreed to try the proposed idea at the next meeting.

Roundtable/Public Comment

Gottleben shared information about upcoming events: March 22 - 23 - Center for Disabilities SPED conference (Pierre); April 18-19-Center for Disabilities Symposium (Sioux Falls) April 9, Miss Amazing South Dakota pageant (Augustana University).

Schaefer reported Simply the Best, and event to celebrate community providers, will be take place in Pierre

Public Comment: No comments.

Adjournment

Having no further business, Jorgensen moved to adjourn, Gottleben seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

The next DAC meeting is scheduled for November 19th, 3 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room, City Hall.

These minutes submitted by Brooke Pape.