



Meeting Minutes

First Floor Conference Room, City Hall

August 19, 2015

3:00pm

Commission members present: Deb Aden, Kendra Gottsleben, Sarah Jo Jorgensen, Lori Lewison, Walter Schaefer, Tana Zwart

Commission members absent: Joyce Heiser, Kevin Horner, Sheila Sandness

Staff present: Colleen Moran, Human Relations Manager and Tina Lemieux, Human Relations Technician

Guest(s) present: Julie Briggs, Wagaye Mesel, Maggie Ibis

Call to Order

Co-Chair Lori Lewison called the meeting to order at 3:01 P.M.

Welcome Guest(s)

The committee welcomed Julie Briggs, Wagaye Mesel, and Maggie Ibis to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Schaefer moved to approve the meeting minutes from July 15, 2015. Jorgensen seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Continuing Business

No continuing business was discussed.

New Business

A. Re-establish Committees and Committee Members:

a. Awareness – Aden, Horner

- i. Lewison suggested sending out a letter to service organizations notifying them the DAC has representatives who are willing to educate individuals on disability awareness. Briggs stated she is willing to represent the

Co-Chairs: Walter Schaefer & Lori Lewison | **3rd Chair:** Deb Aden

Commission at speaking engagements to assist with raising awareness.

- b. **ArtAbility** – Gottsleben, Sandness, Jorgensen, Zwart
 - i. The ArtAbility reception will take place on Friday, April 8, 2016. The art show will run throughout March and April.
 - ii. Call for Art will be sent out in November.
- c. **Citizens on Parking Patrol (COPP)** – Schaefer, Lewison, Horner

B. Humanitarian Awards

- a. The Awards will take place on Monday, October 26, 2015 at the Orpheum Theater.
- b. Nominations are currently being accepted through Friday, September 4, 2015.

C. Charter for Compassion

- a. Mesel and Ibis presented on the Charter for Compassion. The Charter for Compassion is a project which started after author, Karen Armstrong, won a TED cash prize. The goal of the movement is to motivate communities to be more compassionate. One benefit of the Charter is that it is customizable to each city. It also gives one city the opportunity to interact with other communities across the country and the world. Ibis and Mesel discussed the next steps of the project including: registering the City of Sioux Falls, signing a proclamation, holding a press conference, and forming a subcommittee. Ibis and Mesel also discussed the importance of measureable objectives as a means of ensuring this project is sustainable. The idea of a youth leadership award was also discussed.
- b. Mesel and Ibis received feedback from the committee which included: creating a random act of kindness page, incorporating the Charter into established events/activities, and securing a booth at the Holiday Fair. The DAC was receptive to the development of the Charter in Sioux Falls.

HRC Report

Schaefer updated the DAC on the HRC July meeting. Maggie Ibis and Wagaye Mesel presented to the Human Relations Commission on the Charter for Compassion. In addition, the HRC discussed the Humanitarian Awards.

Civil rights updates included a claim of discrimination based on disability. Carnival Corporation, the parent company of Carnival Cruises, has reached a settlement with the Department of Justice due to allegations of discrimination. Among the complaints were allegations that the company failed to: properly provide and reserve accessible cabins for individuals with mobility disabilities; reasonably modify policies, practices and procedures to accommodate individuals with disabilities; afford individuals with disabilities the same opportunities to participate in programs and services, including embarkation and disembarkation; and provide effective communication during muster and emergency drills. As part of the lawsuit, Carnival Corporation has been ordered to provide specific ADA training to employees and managers. In addition, Carnival Corporation will pay a civil penalty of \$55,000 to the United States and \$350,000 in damages to individuals harmed by past discrimination.

The second update involved discrimination based on gender. The U.S. Women's soccer team recently won the World Cup. As part of the team's compensation, the team was awarded \$2 million dollars. However, the U.S. Men's soccer team, who came in 11th, was awarded \$9 million dollars. While there is no official lawsuit, a previous FIFA case which involved over 40 international women soccer players, was dropped earlier this year. The lawsuit demanded FIFA install natural grass in the arenas as opposed to turf. FIFA refused.

Roundtable/Public Comment

Lewison reported that DAKOTACARE has announced a 63% rate increase for individual healthcare coverage.

Jorgensen reported she has secured translators for the Mural Speaks! Project.

Briggs reported on the National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) event that will take place on Thursday, October 1, 2015. The event will be held at the Sanford Research Center. Additional information can be found at www.sfbrn.org.

Moran mentioned she will begin to provide disability rights updates during DAC meetings.

Public Comment: No comments.

Adjournment

Having no further business, Jorgensen moved to adjourn; Zwart seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

The next DAC meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2015, 3 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room, City Hall.

These minutes submitted by Tina Lemieux