

MINUTES	Thursday, October 12th at 12:00pm	
Human Relations Commission Meeting	Commission Room 1st Floor—City Hall 224 West Ninth Street Sioux Falls, South Dakota	

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Kassidi Smith, Meghann Joyce, Megan Grode-Wolters, Vicki Stewart, Sheku Bannister, Tajuan Jackson, Anny Libengood

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Elmar Delibasic, Nassir Yemam, Tony Burke

STAFF PRESENT: Sharla Svenes, Lyndsey Meier, Sage Stansell, Dave Pfeifle

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 12:01pm. M/S/C by Commissioner Joyce, Commissioner Stewart to approve agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/S/C by Commissioner Libengood, Smith to approve minutes from the August 2023 meeting.

HRC OFFICE UPDATE

- A. Human Relations staff informed the Commission that Dawn Marie Johnson has resigned from the Commission, effective 10/3/2023. Staff reminded and encouraged Commissioners to refer individuals to apply for a position on the board.
- B. Svenes informed the Commission that she accepted a new employment opportunity. Svenes will continue to engage with the Commission and the current, ongoing projects until an end date is decided. Chapter 98 amendments will be tabled until a new attorney is hired.
- C. Staff introduced City Attorney Dave Pfeifle, who will be assisting with covering Svenes’s Commission duties until her position is filled.

BUSINESS OR PENDING ISSUES BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD

A. Reconsideration of meeting day, time, frequency

Human Relations staff inquired about the Commission’s desire to keep the meeting day, time, and frequency or to reevaluate moving forward for productivity purposes. In

response, Commissioner Joyce asked that the Commission engage in a strategic planning retreat to develop new goals for the future of the Commission.

B. Subcommittee Updates and initiative review

Svennes asked subcommittees to give consideration to their current initiatives and determine whether they would like to continue on the same path. Staff offered to send a report from the Boston Civil Rights Commission on achievements by similar Commissions for review and consideration prior to a strategic planning session.

Further discussion led the Commission to set the November meeting as a strategic planning session to engage in these conversations, beginning an hour early at 11am.

I. Communications and Outreach (Chair Bannister, Smith) – Staff Liaison Stansell

- Past & Upcoming Events: DAARB and Staff were present at Veteran’s Stand Down.

Svennes and Commissioners discussed the possibility of moving towards the Commission planning a large, annual event that caters towards the mission and vision of the Commission rather than attending as many smaller, community sponsored events throughout the year. Further discussion to take place at the November meeting.

II. . Planning work group (Co-Chairs Grode-Wolters & Burke, Delibasic)

- Grode-Wolters indicated that the Planning Work Group will discuss their current initiatives and determine what actions they would like to proceed with and bring the decision to the next meeting.
- Community Ambassadors Volunteer (CAV) Position: Commissioner Smith recommended that the CAV program be moved to the Communications and Outreach Subcommittee moving forward. M/S/C by Commissioner Joyce and Commissioner Bannister to approve the process outlining recruitment and orientation for the CAV.

III. Chapter 98 review (Grode-Wolters, Libengood, Burke)

- With Chapter 98 amendments on hold until Svennes’s position is filled, the subcommittee will be removed until needed in the future.

OPEN BOARD DISCUSSION

Commissioner Bannister noted that he had connected with Mark Blackburn, who had interest in speaking at an upcoming Commission meeting about his work. Staff informed that Blackburn can plan to speak at the November meeting at 12pm following the strategic planning session.

City Attorney Pfeifle indicated that he would like to attend the November strategic planning session and discussed the timeline and expectations for filling the Assistant City Attorney position in the coming months.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, November 9th 11am-1pm.

ADJOURNMENT

M/S/C by Commissioner Joyce and Commissioner Bannister to adjourn the meeting at 12:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sage Stansell
Housing Intake Specialist