



**HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 3, 2018**

A meeting of the Human Rights Commission was held at 5:30 p.m., City Hall, 5th Floor, Council Chambers, 405 6th Street, Sioux City, IA 51101.

Commissioners Present

Jim Anderson
Julie Berens
Mary Day
Tracy Everett
Nia Key
Richard Moore
Scott Raasch
Tracy Winters

Staff Present

Karen Mackey
Sharon Holder

Staff Absent

Paul Flemming
Jessica Ryan
Lynn Zerschling
Connie Anstey (Legal)

Commissioners Absent

Jean Graham (Excused)
Patricia Hartwell (Excused)
Steele Welcher (Unexcused)

Roll call

Meeting was called to order by Tracy Everett, Chairperson, at 5:30 p.m.

1. Approval of the minutes of the April 5, 2018, meeting.

Hearing no additions or corrections, the minutes stand approved as presented.

2. Closed Session

Ms. Berens moved to go into closed session of the Commission pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5(1) (c) to discuss strategy with counsel in matters that are presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent where its disclosure would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the position of the governmental body in that litigation. Reverend Moore seconded. All voted in favor.

Ms. Berens moved to return to open session, Mr. Anderson seconded. All voted in favor.

After returning to open session, Mr. Anderson moved to accept staff's no probable cause recommendation, in Case 11-1436; Mr. Raasch seconded. All voted in favor.

3. Upcoming Events

- a. Landlord/Property Manager training.

Ms. Mackey advised that the Landlord/Property Manager training normally would have been held last month but the current staff shortage had hindered the ability to do so. The training will be held in June and Paul Flemming in the process getting everything finalized.

b. Joint Meeting with City Council (Wednesday, May 9, 2018)

The annual joint meeting with City Council will take place at Noon on May 9, 2018, in the lower level conference room in City Hall; lunch will be provided. Ms. Mackey stated that the meeting rarely goes over an hour and that the City Council had a small piece of business to conduct that was not related to the Commission.

Ms. Mackey indicated that one of the things she wanted to talk about was insurance, because she was informed last week that going forward, if the Commission sponsored events on their own or co-sponsored events with other organizations, the Commission would have to provide their own insurance.

The issue of insurance had come up when Ms. Mackey was making arrangements for the Gay Pride event to be held on June 9, 2018. In the past, the insurance requirement by the City had always been waived for Commission sponsored or co-sponsored events. Don Trometer in City Legal advised Ms. Mackey the Commission had to come up with their own insurance per the Finance Department. The Commission holds events, sometimes monthly, so this potentially could be a problem for us. This is being required even though the City has insurance coverage. This is not something contemplated in either this year's or next year's budget.

There was an incident at Faces of Siouxland where someone fell off the stage and broke her leg. The stage was not backed up against a wall as Kinseth had shown in a schematic, but was about four feet from the wall; there was no back rail, only curtains. The stage was also higher than had been requested – there were to be three steps to the stage as opposed to the five steps that Kinseth had installed. The leveler for the stage was sticking out from underneath the back of the stage and the injured woman came very close to hitting her head on it.

Ms. Mackey advised Don Dew with the Disabilities Resource Center offered to co-sponsor the Gay Pride event and is providing the insurance for that event.

c. Gay Pride Picnic (Saturday, June 9, 2018)

The Gay Pride event will be held at the big shelter on the water front at Chris Larsen Park from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The picnic starts at Noon.

d. Asian Festival (June 16, 2018)

The Asian Festival will be held at Riverside Park. Ms. Mackey received information about being a sponsor or having a table at the Festival. The fee for a table is \$50 and you must provide your own table and chairs. The sponsorships are high.

e. Juneteenth

Ms. Mackey and Reverend Moore stated that they are unaware of any set dates for Juneteenth. Juneteenth would normally be held on the same date as the Asian Festival.

4. Staff Reports

A copy of the Directors' report was included in the monthly packet.

Ms. Mackey is working with an organization from Drake University to put on a Civility Community Conservation event; hopefully it is going to happen August 14th.

Recently Ms. Mackey and Jessica Ryan interviewed people for the clerical assistant position. Ms. Mackey would like to re-interview two people telephonically and asked if any of the Commissioners would like to assist in the interviews. Mr. Anderson and Reverend Moore volunteered to attend the interviews.

5. Old Business

Sister Day thought the Multi-Cultural Fair was fine. Ms. Mackey advised it was thought there were over 3,000 people but because people were going in and out the side doors as well as three entrances to the venue, it was difficult to have an exact number. She advised the food vendors believed there were more people than last year as they ran out of food and had to obtain more. Ms. Mackey had some feedback from patrons as to why there wasn't vegetarian, Indian, or African food. She explained to the patrons that those foods have been offered in the past – sometimes more than once; however, if the vendors cannot make money, then they will not do it. Discussion was held about needing more tables in the atrium and having the food vendors lined up in one hallway. Ms. Mackey commented that when staff arrived, tables for only two vendors had been set up. Ms. Everett asked if it was possible to have food trucks since more were being seen in the city. Ms. Mackey explained that the number of vendors has been kept to six or seven with many of them being non-profits. Ms. Mackey advised she was not sure how to sell the inside vendors on paying a fee to be at the event while the food trucks did not pay and with the food trucks, the inside vendors would not make a profit. Mr. Anderson commented that this year, people seemed more enthusiastic. Having the performers elevated really helped everyone to see the great entertainment.

6. New Business

Ms. Mackey stated that a committee is needed to work on her review. She advised it looked like there would be a new form to work through. Ms. Everett, Ms. Behrens, Ms. Winters, and Ms. Key will be on the review committee.

Mr. Anderson wants an educational piece done on what happened at Starbucks (where two African American men were waiting for their friend and asked to use the restroom; since they had not purchased anything, they were refused then arrested and charged with trespassing.) Ms. Mackey advised she would follow up with Flora Lee.

Ms. Key advised she would like an educational event to work with felons and disabled felons to make sure their criminal histories are not being used to restrict them from housing. Ms. Behrens and Ms. Winters advised they would be interested in working with Ms. Key on that.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.