



**HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 2, 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
Tracy Everett
Nia Key
Richard Moore
Scott Raasch
Steele Welcher
Tracy Winters

Staff Present

Karen Mackey
Sharon Holder
Jessica Ryan
Izamar Carrillo
Connie Anstey (Legal)

Staff Absent

Paul Flemming
Lynn Zerschling

Commissioners Absent

Mary Day (Excused)
Jean Graham (Excused)
Sue Hartwell (Excused)

1. Roll Call

Meeting was called to order by Tracy Everett, Chair, at 5:38 p.m.

2. Approval of the minutes of the May 3, 2018, meeting.

Hearing no additions or corrections, Mr. Raasch moved to approve the minutes from the June 7, 2018, meeting; Ms. Berens seconded. All voted in favor. Minutes stand approved.

3. Upcoming Events

Ms. Mackey suggested we move to upcoming events to allow commissioners time to conclude their reading of cases.

a. National Night Out (Tuesday, August 7, 2018)

There will be sites at locations across the Sioux City from 6-8 p.m. Former Commissioner Shirley McLeod volunteered to staff a table at the Riverside Park location. The two other locations with the highest traffic are the Cook Park site and the Youth for Christ location. Ms. Winters, Mr. Raasch and Ms. Berens all indicated they would volunteer.

b. Civility in Siouxland (Tuesday, August 14, 2018)

Revive Civility Iowa will hold a workshop on civility in discourse. It will be held at the Sioux City Public Museum from 4-6 p.m. It is free to attend but pre-registration is required via EventBrite.

c. ADL Anti- Bias Facilitator Training (Monday, August 6, 2018)

A workshop to train potential facilitators for the ADL program "Empowerment in Our World" that will be held at North High School for 90 public high school students. Persons interested in being facilitators will be trained for the August 15th forum. Facilitators will be paired with experienced leaders

d. Veteran's Stand Down (Friday, August 24, 2018)

We will have staff at a table. There will be a variety of community services offered at this event as well as a free lunch. The event will be held at Long Lines from 10 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

e. Equal Means Equal (Saturday, August 25, 2018)

The film "Equal Means Equal" will be shown at the museum at 1:00 p.m. We are co-sponsoring the screening.

f. Game Changer- Teen Health Event (Saturday, August 25, 2018)

Girls Inc is hosting a free teen event. It is from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is open to girls and boys and will feature speakers on a variety of topics related to health and safety issues for teens. We will host a table at this event.

g. Siouxland Cares Wiffle Ball Classic (Sunday, August 26, 2018)

Noon to 3 p.m. at Miracle Field. Splash pad will be open. Baked goods will be sold.

h. Convoy of Hope (Saturday, September 15, 2018)

Will be held at Cook Park. It is a free community event. There will be groceries distributed, a hot lunch served, health screenings, community fair, people available for prayer, family portraits. Ms. Mackey will be looking at hosting a booth for our office to distribute information and giveaways. Volunteers may be needed.

4. Closed Session

Mr. Anderson 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. Rev. Moore seconded. All voted in favor.

Ms. Winters moved to return to open session, Mr. Raasch seconded. All voted in favor.

After returning to open session, Ms. Berens moved to accept staff's no probable cause recommendation, in Case 11-1452; Ms. Everett seconded. All voted in favor; Ms. Key abstained.

In case 11-1455, Mr. Anderson moved to accept staff's no probable cause recommendation, Rev. Moore seconded. All voted in favor; Ms. Key abstained.

In case 11-1456, Mr. Raasch moved to accept staff's no probable cause recommendation, Mr. Anderson seconded. All voted in favor; Ms. Key abstained.

In case 11-1447, Mr. Raasch moved to accept staff's no probably cause recommendation, Mr. Anderson seconded. All voted in favor; Ms. Key, Mr. Welcher and Ms. Berens abstained.

5. Staff Reports

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

Ms. Mackey discussed the Effective Communication event held on August 1, 2018. The event featured a lively and engaging discussion. The lack of pre-registration and no-shows/cancellations continue to be an issue. We will continue to explore options to ensure compliance with pre-registration. The event featured a presentation by the U.S. Assistant Attorney, Kathryn Hayden. There needs to be further education and outreach to ensure that members of the deaf or disabled community are aware of their rights and the scope of those rights. The need for accommodations to be an interactive process and part of an ongoing discussion is critical to understand.

Ms. Mackey reminded commissioners of the need to inform staff when attending community events. If six commissioners attend an event, it constitutes a quorum and we need to post that meeting to be in compliance with Iowa code. Ms. Mackey also reminded commissioners of the need to reply directly to an email and to take care not to reply all.

Ms. Mackey discussed the variety of issues the city of Davenport, Iowa is currently facing with their own human rights commission. Ms. Mackey underscored that the efforts taken against other commissions are necessary to be aware of in the event similar action is proposed in Sioux City. The actions of the Davenport city council risk compliance with state law and HUD. Ms. Mackey explained that a possible consequence of non-compliance could result in municipalities losing HUD funds. The financial impact on a community would be substantial.

6. Old Business

Ms. Mackey's review was completed by the committee of Ms. Everett, Ms. Winters and Ms. Berens. Mr. Anderson moved to accept the review and send on to Human Resources. Mr. Raasch seconded. All approved.

7. New Business

There will be election of new chair and vice chair positions. A commissioner position will also be open. It should be a male.

Mr. Raasch commended Ms. Mackey on a job well done.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.