



**HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 6, 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
Mary Day
Tracy Everett
Richard Moore
Scott Raasch
Tracy Winters

Staff Present

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

Commissioners Absent

Julie Berens (Excused)
Jean Graham (Excused)
Sue Hartwell (Excused)
Nia Key (Excused)
Steele Welcher (Excused)

Staff Absent

Paul Flemming
Lynn Zerschling

1. Roll Call

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

2. Approval of the minutes of the August 2, 2018, meeting.

Hearing no additions or corrections, Mr. Raasch moved to approve the minutes from the August 2, 2018, meeting; Ms. Winters seconded. All voted in favor. Minutes stand approved.

3. Closed Session

Ms. Mackey stated that going into closed session was not necessary as the cases being discussed were in the public record or previously determined and discussed. The first case being discussed was awaiting a signature on the post finding agreement and for payment to be made to the complainant. The cause finding was determined and the conciliation, while lengthy, was ultimately successful. A settlement agreement was reached verbally and awaiting final written acceptance by all parties. Ms. Anstey discussed the housing case that is now on appeal. The attorney for the appeal has been appointed to a new role and reached out for the first time about an appeal. Ms. Anstey is preparing a settlement offer and is hopeful to reach a settlement in that case as well. It will include all the standard provisions of other conciliation agreements like oversight, training, Fair Housing signage etc.

In case 11-1351, Ms. Day moved to accept staff's pre-determination settlement recommendation, Ms. Everett seconded. All voted in favor.

4. Upcoming Events

a. Convoy of Hope (September 15, 2018)

The event will be held at Cook Park. It is a rain or shine event. Our table will be housed in the Community Services tent. It is near the parking lot off of Market Street. Set-up should be completed by 9 a.m. An email with details for volunteers will be sent out.

b. Welcoming Week (September 15th-25th)

Ms. Carrillo shared the dates and events for Welcoming Week. Many of the events are being coordinated through staff and volunteers with Mary Treglia, and held at various locations in the community. The events are all free and open to the public. Staff has volunteered to provide interpreting and translating services for the Naturalization Clinic and the Immigration Simulation. Ms. Mackey invited all who are interested to consider attending the Immigration Simulation. She highlighted how the experience can be very informative and educational on the immigration process.

c. Commissioner's Retreat (TBD)

Ms. Mackey stated the need to plan a fall retreat for commission members. The retreat is an opportunity for training, education and discussion on the position and role of commissioners. It is typically a half-day event, held on a Saturday. The session lasts between 3-4 hours so it is possible to arrange a weeknight event if necessary. Ms. Mackey requested commissioners email her with any dates they are unavailable so that she might have a tentative date scheduled in the future.

d. Faces of Siouxland (TBD)

It was discovered recently that the original date for Faces 2019 of April 7, 2019 was no longer available. The event is now scheduled for March 31, 2019. Other earlier dates in March or later in April were not viable options due to weather concerns or conflict with the Easter holiday. The need to secure future dates beyond 2019 with a contract and deposit will be addressed in the coming months.

e. Anti-Bias Training (TBD)

This event is going to be rescheduled for the spring. The fall and summer months have been saturated with community events and have suffered in participation due to the volume of events scheduled. Ms. Mackey believes the event would find greater participation in the spring.

5. Staff Reports

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

Ms. Mackey shared the thank you note from the Community Conversation event held in August. Organizers of the event noted that the Sioux City event was one of their largest attended and they were grateful for our participation.

Ms. Mackey discussed the new sweat lodge being coordinated by Jackson Recovery and Native organizations. The previous sweat lodge was on private property and not available for public use. Organizers met with the Sioux City Fire Marshal and cleared the last hurdle to continue with construction. A ceremony will be held on Sunday, September 9 to officially open the sweat lodge. It will be open to the community and is not exclusive to Jackson Recovery clients.

Mr. Raasch asked about the nature of the work the Bullying Coalition does. Ms. Mackey shared that the coalition is comprised of members of organizations like CSADV, police, Sioux City Community Schools as well as parents and citizens that meet to discuss bullying and issues related to bullying. Ms. Mackey believed the meetings are held the second Thursday of each month but would check her calendar to verify. The meetings were held at the Chamber of Commerce building, but due to construction, will be held in the 3rd floor meeting room at Long Lines. Anyone interested can visit Siouxlandcares.com for more information.

Ms. Day invited everyone to an Ethiopian coffee roast on Saturday, September 8, 2018 at the Mary J. Treglia Community House. The event is open to the public and free to attend. All are welcome to attend.

6. Old Business

Ms. Ryan shared the clarification received about the need for additional event insurance. It was communicated by the Finance Dept. that if the SCHRC is the sole sponsor of an event, no additional insurance is not necessary. If the SCHRC is a co-sponsor and not the primary or sole sponsor, additional insurance would be needed.

7. New Business

Election of officers for Chair and Vice Chair.

Mr. Anderson nominated Ms. Everett for Chair. Ms. Day motioned to cease nominations and accept the nomination of Ms. Everett by acclamation. Mr. Moore seconded. All voted in favor.

Ms. Everett nominated Ms. Behrens for Vice Chair. Mr. Raasch motioned to cease nominations and accept the nomination of Ms. Behrens by acclamation. Ms. Everett seconded. All voted in favor.

There were no citizen concerns.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.