

**HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2019**

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
Patricia Hartwell
Rev. Richard Moore
Don Scarlett
Steele Welcher
Tracy Winters

Staff Present

Sharon Holder
Karen Mackey
Jessica Ryan
Connie Anstey (Legal)

Staff Absent

Lynn Zerschling (excused)
Izamar Carrillo (excused)

Commissioners Absent

Nia Key (unexcused)

1. Roll call

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

2. Approval of the minutes of the November 7, 2018 Special Meeting.

Ms. Day moved to approve the minutes from the November 7, 2018 Special Meeting; Ms. Berens seconded. All voted in favor.

Approval of the minutes of the January 3, 2019, meeting.

Rev. Moore moved to approve the minutes from the January 3, 2019, meeting; Ms. Day seconded. All voted in favor.

3. Closed Session

Mr. Anderson moved to go into closed session of the Commission to review or discuss records which are required or authorized by Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(a) or (f) or federal law to be kept confidential. Ms. Berens seconded. All voted in favor.

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

After returning to open session, Ms. Hartwell moved to accept staff's probable cause recommendation, in Case 11-1421; Mr. Anderson seconded. All voted in favor.

In Case 11-1430 Ms. Berens moved to accept staff's no probable cause recommendation, Ms. Winters Moore seconded. All voted in favor.

In Case 11-1468 Rev. Moore moved to authorize the acceptance of a probable cause recommendation absent the disposition of the case prior to the 21st of February. Ms. Everett seconded. All voted in favor.

4. Upcoming Events

a. Commissioner Retreat (February 25, 2019)

Ms. Mackey stated the Commissioner's Retreat has been rescheduled for the evening of Monday, February 25th, 2019 at City Hall.

b. Civil Rights Academy- Immigration Nation (February 20, 2019)

We will hold a panel discussion centered around immigration on Wednesday, February 20th. It will be held at the Sioux City Public Museum from 6-8:30 p.m. It is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is requested by the 18th of February. It will include representatives from Mary J. Treglia community house, an immigration attorney, and a community member personally affected by immigration policy.

c. Faces of Siouxland (March 31, 2019)

Faces of Siouxland will be held on Sunday, March 31st, from Noon to 4 p.m. at the Sioux City Convention Center. Registrations continue to come in, please send any vendors who might be interested in participating to our office. Izamar is working on setting up interviews with various media outlets. She will be in contact with commissioners about dates and times to provide those interviews. Ms. Mackey stated that the addition of a balloon animal helper should help with the line and wait for children wanting a balloon animal. The Mayor's Youth Commission will be helping vendors unload and get set up the day of the fair.

5. Staff reports

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

Ms. Mackey wanted to make note of the passing of former commissioner Mr. Royce Barnum. Mr. Barnum was a fierce advocate of human rights and a long time member of the commission. His legacy on the commission, in education and in the community, is incredible and much appreciated. Ms. Mackey stated that an ongoing project Lynn Zerschling has been a history on the Human Rights Commission. She has been compiling interviews with former commissioners. Ms. Mackey is looking at venues or an event in the future to feature Lynn's work.

Ms. Mackey stated that Legal Aid of Iowa will be hosting Legal Aid for Landlord and Tenant on February 27th, 2019.

Ms. Mackey stated that the LGBTQ community liaisons that was named last year has now become part of a larger group of Community Cultural Liaisons that are not named to specific groups or communities. This may impact the score the Human Rights Campaign gives the City of Sioux City. Ms. Mackey stated the need for ongoing training for all City employees has been discussed and hopes to address this further with the Human Resources Director.

Ms. Mackey introduced new commissioner, Don Scarlett.

6. Old Business

Ms. Ryan stated the need for helping secure entertainment for the Faces of Siouxland Multicultural Fair. Mr. Scarlett suggested Cliff Coleman. Ms. Anstey suggested local show choirs and bands.

7. New Business

None

8. Citizen concerns

None

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jessica Ryan, Administrative Secretary