



**HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 1, 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

Julie Berens
Charlotte Gorter
Chris Jensen
Billy Oyadare
Don Scarlett
Robert Stewart
Steele Welcher
Tracy Winters

Staff Present

Karen Mackey
Sharon Holder
Jessica Ryan
Tani Russell
Connie Anstey (Legal)

Staff Absent

Lynn Zerschling (excused)
Izamar Carrillo (excused)

Commissioners Absent

Mary Day (excused)
Nia Key (excused)
Rev. Richard Moore (excused)

1. Roll call

Meeting was called to order by Julie Berens, Interim Chairperson, at 5:31 p.m.

New Commission Members were introduced.

2. Approval of the minutes of the June 6, 2019 Meeting and the June 24, 2019 Special meeting.

Mr. Stewart moved to approve the minutes from the June 6 and June 24, 2019, meetings, as amended; Mr. Scarlett seconded. All voted in favor.

3. Closed Session

Ms. Berens stated that as there were no cases to discuss, there was no need to go into closed session.

Ms. Anstey shared that the case that had been pending appeal was now scheduled for oral arguments beginning September 4, 2019.

4. Upcoming Events

a. National Nights Out (August 6, 2019)

Ms. Russell shared details about the upcoming National Night Out events that would be held on Tuesday, August 6, 2019 from 6-8pm. There are several sites around the city. Police and Fire will be at every site. Ms. Russell will continue to reach out and coordinate volunteers to staff the locations around the city.

b. Siouxland Coalition to End Human Trafficking Event (September 23, 2019)

In partnership with the Siouxland Coalition to End Human Trafficking, a forum will be held to discuss human trafficking on Monday, September 23, 2019 from 6-8:30 p.m. at the Siou City Public Museum. The forum will feature a presenter from Omaha and will have child care for attendees that may need it. Pre-registration will be needed to assess the need for volunteers to oversee the childcare area.

5. Staff reports

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

Ms. Mackey shared that this summer, we were fortunate enough to have two very talented interns. The focus of their work was outreach and community engagement. Through Campus Compact we were able to again have a summer intern from Morningside College, Ms. Russell. Ms. Russell's internship ended the previous week. There was a clerical assistant position available and Ms. Russell was hired for that position.

The other intern, Haley Hines, also a Morningside student, has also moved to a temporary position in our office.

Ms. Mackey shared that Ms. Anstey, Ms. Holder and Ms. Ryan would be attending HUD Regional Training in Omaha, NE from August 6-8, 2019.

6. Old Business

Ms. Mackey stated that the previously discussed Request for Council Action to rescind the resolution on marriage equality does not have the support of council to go forward. Options for addressing this matter will continue to be discussed.

7. New Business

Ms. Berens asked for commissioners to join her on a committee to complete Ms. Mackey's annual review. Ms. Day and Mr. Welcher agreed to join Ms. Berens on the committee.

Ms. Mackey shared that elections for commission chair and vice chair would be held at the September 2019 meeting.

Ms. Mackey met with community members to review the Human Rights Campaign Equality Index criteria. Sioux City was the 2nd lowest in the rankings statewide for 2018.

Ms. Anstey shared that the commission might want to elect a temporary chair and vice chair. Mr. Stewart nominated Julie Berens for interim chair. Mr. Scarlett seconded. All voted in favor. The commission opted to wait until the September meeting to elect a vice chair.

8. Citizen concerns

Mr. Anderson reflected on his nine years on the commission. He shared that he has enjoyed serving on the commission, is heartened by the increasing diversity on the commission and looks forward to the continued efforts at education and advocacy on behalf of marginalized communities in Sioux City.

Mr. Anderson was presented with a plaque commemorating his service to the commission.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jessica Ryan, Administrative Secretary