



**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 1, 2016**

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
Jean Graham
Shirley McLeod
Jeremy Pigg
Scott Raasch
Erika Worrell

Commissioners Absent

Sue Hartwell (excused)
Steele Welcher (unexcused)
Wes Whitead (unexcused)

Staff Present

Lana Becker
Sharon Holder
Karen Mackey
Lorelei Thomas
Connie Anstey (Legal)

Staff Absent

Paul Flemming
Jessica Ryan
Lynn Zerschling

1. Roll call

Meeting was called to order by Scott Raasch, Chairperson, at 5:30 p.m.

Ms. Mackey introduced Lorelei Thomas, a Social Work student with the University of Iowa. Ms. Thomas will be an intern in the Human Rights office for the school year.

2. Approval of the minutes of the August 4, 2016, meeting.

Ms. Berens moved to approve the minutes from the August 4, 2016, meeting; Ms. McLeod seconded. All voted in favor.

3. Closed Session

Ms. Graham 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. Mr. Pigg seconded. All voted in favor.

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

After returning to open session, Ms. Graham moved to accept staff's no probable cause recommendation in Case 11-1376; Ms. McLeod seconded. All voted in favor.

In Case 11-1386 Ms. McLeod moved to accept staff's no probable cause recommendation, Ms. Everett seconded. All voted in favor.

In Case 11-1381 Mr. Pigg moved to take the case to District Court should mediation fail, Ms. Worrell seconded. All voted in favor.

Ms. McLeod moved to retain outside counsel, Mr. Anderson seconded. All voted in favor.

4. Upcoming Events

a. Race: The Power of an Illusion (September 13, 2016)

Race: The Power of an Illusion will be held on Tuesday, September 13th, at the Sioux City Museum from 9:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. The class is full and there are multiple people on the waiting list.

b. Universal Human Rights Day (December 9, 2016)

Universal Human Rights Day will be held on Friday, December 9th, at the Sioux City Museum from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Ms. Mackey stated that we will select a subcommittee at the October meeting to review nominees.

5. Staff reports

Ms. Mackey stated that Faces of Siouxland will be held on Sunday, April 2nd, 2017, at the Sioux City Convention Center.

Ms. Mackey stated that there will be an event on Saturday, September 10th, at Riverside Park from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., promoting Native American culture, education and family. There will also be a free cook out. Ms. Mackey hoped Commissioners would volunteer to attend and cover our table. Ms. McLeod volunteered to be at our table from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Mackey stated that there will be two forums on Human Trafficking. The first one will be held on Saturday, September 10th, at the old Emerson School. It will be from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and will include a documentary and a discussion. The second one will be Saturday, September 17th, also at the old Emerson School. It will be from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and will include facts and statistics as well as keynote speaker Dr. Marian Hatcher.

Ms. Mackey stated that the 4th Annual Iowa Civil Rights Symposium and the 1st Build it Right Iowa Conference will be held on Friday, October 28th, in Des Moines. If any Commissioners are interested in attending please contact Ms. Mackey.

Mr. Pigg stated that on Monday, September 19th, all Sioux City 9th graders will be viewing the documentary "Audrey and Daisy", a film about sexual assault. The viewing will be at the Orpheum Theatre at 8:30 a.m. Commissioners are invited to attend the event.

6. Old Business

Mr. Raasch stated that a Commissioner has not attended a Commission meeting in over a year even though staff has repeatedly contacted the individual. Mr. Raasch asked for a motion to contact the Commissioner regarding their lack of attendance. Motion by Ms. McLeod, seconded by Mr. Pigg, to contact the absentee Commissioner; all voted in favor.

7. New Business

a. Election of Officers

Mr. Raasch opened the floor for nominations for Chair. Ms. Graham nominated Mr. Raasch. Ms. Berens seconded. There were no other nominations. Mr. Raasch accepted. All voted in favor, none opposed. Mr. Raasch opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chair. Ms. Worrell nominated Ms. Everett. Mr. Pigg seconded. There were no other nominations. Ms. Everett accepted. All voted in favor, none opposed.

b. Commissioner Retreat

Ms. Mackey asked the Commission to come up with possible dates to have a retreat. She asked that they email her by Friday, September 9th.

8. Citizen concerns

None

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lana Becker, Secretary