



ROCK ISLAND
HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION

Mission: The mission of the Rock Island Human Rights Commission is to bring about greater public awareness of the ethnic and cultural diversity that exists within the community and to ensure that all humans are treated equally, regardless of race gender, religion, age, or disability.

Rock Island Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes
Meeting was held in person with a virtual option
January 19, 2023; 5:00 pm

Commission Members Present

Thurgood Brooks
Tamara Felden
Gregg Hampton
Christiana Headley, Secretary
Janet Lockhart Johnson, Chair
David Levin
Jason Lopez, Vice Chair
Margie Mejia-Caraballo

Commission Members Absent

Steven Andich
Randall McMurray

Commission Members Virtual

Sara Meyer
Vince Thomas

Staff Present

Jerry Jones, City Liaison

Public Present

None

AGENDA ITEM #1 – Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions

- Janet called the meeting to order at 5:00pm

AGENDA ITEM #2 – Public Comment

- No public comment

AGENDA ITEM #3 – Approval of Minutes from October Meeting

Margie made a motion to approve minutes. David seconded. Unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #4 – Old Business

- Ordinance update and discussion

Discussion ensued about discussing the new ordinance and writing down questions. Jerry will send a pdf to the commission to review. It is also posted on the City of Rock Island website now that it's an ordinance. Commission members are recommended to review and develop questions to discuss. It was suggested that we have a special meeting to discuss our questions. After our discussion, we will invite the lawyers to answer questions as needed.

Sara made a motion to have a working meeting to come together and review the ordinance and develop questions that may need clarification from the attorneys. Christiana seconded the motion. Unanimous. Notify Jerry of the date, Thursday, 2/2/23 at 5pm.

AGENDA ITEM #5 – Complaints

- 84-2022-AS: Letter sent to complainant because she did not agree to sign a release of information.
- 85-2022-JP: Christiana will send a letter. The commission decided this is a court/legal issue and not under our jurisdiction.

AGENDA ITEM #6 – New Business

- Thurgood plans to remain on the commission at least through the spring.

AGENDA ITEM #7 – Commissioner Comments

- Discussed our book "How to be an antiracist," by Ibram Kendi. Commissioners can read a chapter and be prepared to participate in discussion each month. Gregg suggested that each month one person volunteer to give a brief summary of the chapter and ask 1-2 questions of the group. Book discussion will be added to the next agenda in February. Thank you to Tamara for donating books to the commission!
- Concern about fair housing and a request for education on fair housing. The company is Community Home Partners. The commission is interested in having someone come and speak to us about fair housing and answer questions. Vince offered to reach out to Gail to see if she could come to one of our meetings.

AGENDA ITEM #8 – Adjourn

David made a motion to adjourn. Jason seconded. Janet adjourned the meeting at 5:34pm.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, 2/16/23, with a SPECIAL meeting on Thursday 2/2/23. 630 Martin Luther King Dr. Rock Island, IL 61201 at **5:00 p.m.** The Rock Island Human Rights Commission meets the third Thursday of each month.