



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 Special Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting was held in person with a virtual option**  
**June 15, 2023; 5:00 pm**

**Commission Members Present**

Steven Andich  
Tamara Felden  
Christiana Headley, Secretary  
Janet Lockhart Johnson, Chair  
David Levin  
Jason Lopez, Vice Chair  
Randall McMurray

**Commission Members Absent**

Margie Mejia-Caraballo  
Sara Meyer  
Thurgood Brooks

**Commission Members Virtual**

Vince Thomas

**Staff Present**

Jerry Jones, City Liaison

**Public Present**

- **AGENDA ITEM #1** – Call to Order by Janet at 5:04 pm
- **AGENDA ITEM #2** – Public Comment
- **AGENDA ITEM #3** – Jason made a motion to accept the minutes, Randall seconded. Unanimous.
- **AGENDA ITEM #4** – Old Business  
Ordinance update and discussion-Going through a transition with lawyers. Gerald has not received feedback with a materials update to share with us.
- **AGENDA ITEM #6** – New Business  
***New complaint 1: 86-2023-BW***

Discussion ensued in regards to there being any discrimination. Stephen made a motion, Randall seconded. Though any sort of discrimination is not evident, there was discussion about the coherence of the complaint. It was decided that rather than dismiss the complaint, Christiana will call BW to gather more information and present it to the commission at July's meeting.

***New complaint 2: 87-2023-MH***

Discussion ensued in regards to there being any discrimination. If they can provide additional information that details how there was disability discrimination, we can further evaluate the complaint. David made a motion. Randall seconded.

Discussion ensued regarding our goal as a commission to reach out to the complainants and get more information. Stephen and David withdrew their motions to send letters as a result of the discussion. Jason will call MH and Christiana will call BW to get more information. Vince seconded the motion.

Continuing education item: Gerald mentioned Prairie State Legal Services and will invite Paris and Brandy to our next meeting to share what they do with us.

New member discussion and recommendation. Thurgood is submitting his letter of resignation. We currently have 11 members including Thurgood. Applicants will be resent to commission members to review again. **Please respond as quickly as possible to Gerald with your top 3 choices.**

Discussion of group reading "How to be an Antiracist". We will refresh our memories by reading chapter 1 and chapter 2. Tamara will send study questions and we will discuss them at the July meeting.

- **AGENDA ITEM #7** – Commissioner Comments: Vince recommended having a public book reading and discussion. It may be helpful to partner with the library and find facilitators to lead discussions.

Update from David about the fair housing breakfast in April.

- **AGENDA ITEM #8** – Adjourn

NEXT MEETING: July 20, 2023 at 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.