

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 16, 2022; 5:00 pm**

Commission Members Present

Tamara Felden
Christiana Headley, Secretary
Jason Lopez, Vice Chair
Sara Meyer

(Virtual)
Stephen Andich
Janet Lockhart Johnson, Chair

Commission Members Absent

Thurgood Brooks
Gregg Hampton
David Levin
Margie Mejia-Carabello
Vince Thomas

Staff Present

Jerry Jones, City Liaison

Public Present

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

Janet called the meeting to order at 5:01pm

- **AGENDA ITEM #2 – Public Comment**
- **AGENDA ITEM #3 – Approval of Minutes from May Meeting**

Steve made a motion to approve the minutes. Tamara seconded.

● **AGENDA ITEM #4 – Old Business**

- Ordinance updates: Jerry met with city attorneys and new city manager (Todd Thompson).
 - Concerns: City council members were worried if subpoena power would go through city attorneys. Jerry assured that would be the case.
 - There is the opportunity to have a hearing officer who would not be a commission member. We wouldn't have to have separate investigative and judicial bodies. The hearing officer would be judicial. Discussion ensued. Several members felt having a divided body for investigations would be cumbersome and are in favor of having a hearing officer.
 - Discussion ensued about the benefits of having a hearing officer who is appointed or would the commission have a say in who would be appointed to that position.
 - Next steps would be for the city attorneys to present this model to the city council.
- Complaint: 82-2022-KA
 - Tamara and Gregg met with the complainant. KA has been working on opening this business for 3 years and has encountered many challenges and obstacles. Tamara noted that the city attorney stated we could not investigate the city council itself. Gregg and Tamara agreed that we are not in a position to assist the complainant at this time. They helped connect him with the ACLU and with filing a complaint with the Illinois Human Rights Commission.
 - Jason made a motion to close the case. Sara seconded.
 - Christiana will send a letter stating the reason we cannot move forward with the case and listing other resources.

● **AGENDA ITEM #5 – New Business**

- 83-2022-JP
 - Jason and Sara volunteered to contact the complainant to obtain further information about her complaint and determine the discrimination she experienced.

● **AGENDA ITEM #6 – Commissioner Comments**

The new city manager is interested in meeting with the Human Rights Commission. Jerry will invite him to the next meeting.

Steve shared that the city of Moline just enacted a Human Rights Commission and appointed 6 members. They are interested in how our commission operates and our mission/purpose. Steve gave Moline commission member Jerry's contact information.

Tamara requested that we discuss ideas on our educational mission and ideas to reach out to the community. Christiana will add to the next agenda.

● **AGENDA ITEM #7 – Adjourn**

Janet called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 pm. Jason made a motion and Tamara seconded.

NEXT MEETING: July 21, 2022, 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.