



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

August 17, 2023; 5:00 pm

Commission Members Present

Steven Andich
Margie Mejia-Caraballo
Tamara Felden
David Levin
Janet Lockhart Johnson, Chair
Jason Lopez, Vice Chair
Randall McMurray
Sara Meyer
Vince Thomas

Commission Members Absent

Christiana Headley, Secretary

Commission Members Virtual

None

Staff Present

Jerry Jones, City Liaison

Public Present

- **AGENDA ITEM #1** – Janet called to Order at 5 pm, Welcome, Introductions
- **AGENDA ITEM #2** – Public Comment-None
- **AGENDA ITEM #3** – Approval of Minutes from June meeting, Steve moved to approve, Margie seconded. Unanimous.
- **AGENDA ITEM #4** – Old Business

Ordinance update:

Discussion on details of worksheet process: The worksheet was reviewed and approved by the city attorney, with a couple of informational items that were not clear from the ordinance itself. Tamara distributed copies of the final instrument and indicated that Christiana will place the document in our shared Google Drive, which will have a folder for cases, with that folder having subfolders for each case. She also indicated that each member of the Commission will receive a binder at the next meeting. The binder will contain the full text of the ordinance, the worksheet, the interview guideline, and the up-

dated contact information sheet.

Randy asked at what point the worksheet will have to be completed and Tamara indicated that it would have to be maintained step by step as a case unfolds. With the document in the shared Google Drive, any Commission member would have to be able to access the document and see where a case stands at that point. Everyone agreed that we need to train on the use of the worksheet (and by implication the ordinance) and that working through the worksheet with a couple of prior cases would be a good next step. A good case to use as a test would be the “Karen” case plus one recent case that we did not take.

● **AGENDA ITEM #6 – New Business**

New member discussion

- Jerry reports that Cory declined the offer to join the Commission, Les Chianti and Simone were approved by city council (one year each), and Keenan Wilson has our invitation accepted, but is not yet approved.
- The memo has gone to the mayor for approval. The one-year appointment is because they are each filling in for someone who has resigned.
- All three have been approved for a one-year appointment and will then -if they wish to continue- have to be approved for a full term to follow that one year.
- This means that we will have three new members at our next meeting and they will have a lot of questions; a good additional training opportunity for all. We will schedule a longer time for next meeting to accommodate this.

● **AGENDA ITEM #7 – Commissioner Comments**

Future learning – discussion of options and reasoning behind them; learning to gain a better understanding of the life experiences and perspectives of the populations we seek to serve, not only our perception of them. Training should include all options available to us, including presentations by groups and organizations willing to make such presentations, such as by the Realtors’ Association and Clock Inc.

Due to the cost of high-quality training, we need funding. We will ask for a budget of \$10,000 per year for training, initially for us, and then use those training materials to offer training to others in the community.

Sarah makes an announcement: Quad City Interfaith fundraising event, Oct 8 banquet called Unmasking Injustice, knowing causes of injustice is key. At Rhythm City Casino, online option to sign up. Keynote Miriam Vallejo, photographer, etc. online url: QCInterfaith.org

● **AGENDA ITEM #8 – Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at 5:41 pm by Janet.

NEXT MEETING: September 21, 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.

