

# 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, religion, sex, (sexual orientation, gender identity) age, or disability.

Rock Island Human Rights Commission  
Special Meeting Minutes  
Martin Luther King Community Center, Conference Room  
639 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Rock Island, IL 61201  
July 8, 2021; 5:00 P.M.

## **Commission Members Present**

Steve Andich  
Thurgood Brooks  
Greg Hampton  
David Levin  
Janet Lockhart Johnson, Vice Chair  
Jason Lopez  
Clayton Peterson, Volunteer Secretary  
Tamara Felden

## **Commission Members Absent**

Christiana Headley, Secretary  
Margie Mejia-Carabello  
Vincent Thomas  
Vacancy, Chairman

## **Staff Present**

Jerry Jones, City Liaison  
Hector Lareau, City Attorney  
David Morrison, City Attorney

- I. Welcome and introductions. Meeting was called to order by Janet Lockhart Johnson at 5:05 P.M.
- II. Public comment. None
- III. Consideration of the meeting minutes 06-17-2021. Motion to approve by David Levin, Steve Andich seconded, approved unanimously.
- IV. Old Business
  - A. Review and discussion of the proposed revision of Division 5 Human Rights Commission of the Rock Island City Code.
    1. Jerry Jones provided a page numbered copy of the draft ordinance for an easier follow as we discuss this in length.
    2. Janet opened this session with the first question asked by the Commission. How much control does the Commission retain in this revised process?

3. David then presented an overview of how this process started and in certain cases it would have been appropriate to have subpoena powers, and more.
  4. David Morrison, City Attorney, and author of this draft explained that several Illinois City Ordinances and the State Human Rights Ordinances have been used to attempt to develop the perfect Human Rights Ordinance. All the ordinances have some issue. He believes he has gleaned the most efficient.
  5. All Commission Members present made comment.
  6. Commission roles were discussed; (3) 1. Officer 2. Investigator 3. Commission
    - a. The Officer and the Investigator portion cannot be members of the Commission.
    - b. The entire entity will meet to strategize for city wide awareness and advocacy of human rights issues.
    - c. Minutes must be kept of any Closed Session Meetings.
    - d. Currently page 31 begins the guts of this draft.
    - e. The draft currently includes a helpline to report Sexual Harassment and Discrimination from the bottom of page 15-19 and Attorney Morrison has suggested that it not be included. Our copy is printed in purple.
  7. During the rigorous conversation, the five presented questions were at least gleaned upon with intermittent comment by Hector Lareau.
  8. Jerry Jones sent out an overview of the proposed process when a complaint is filed. Each Commission member should have received that via pdf file.
- V. Commission Comments; all during the discussion and conversation.
- VI. Adjourn; the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 P.M.

Clayton C. Peterson, acting secretary.

Next meeting: July 15, 2021? Usually the third Thursday some discussion 22?

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Rock Island Human Rights Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
Meeting was held in person with a virtual option  
July 22 2021; 5:00 pm

**Commission Members Present**

Steven Andich  
Tamara Felden  
Christiana Headley, Secretary  
Janet Lockhart Johnson, Chair  
David Levin  
Jason Lopez, Vice Chair  
Margie Mejia-Carabello  
Clayton Peterson

**Commission Members Absent**

Thurgood Brooks  
Gregg Hampton  
Vince Thomas

**Staff Present**

Jerry Jones, City Liaison

**Others Present**

None

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

Meeting called to order by Jason at 5:01 pm

**AGENDA ITEM #2 – Public Comment**

None

**AGENDA ITEM #3 – Approval of Minutes**

Clayton motioned to approve June 2021 and special meeting minutes, David seconded, Minutes approved unanimously

**AGENDA ITEM #4 – Old Business**

None

**AGENDA ITEM #5 – New Business**

a. 75-2021-DC

David updated the commission on the discussion with the complainant. Both David and Jason felt there were some peculiarities. DC stated that the doctor would not confirm his injury was a result of a forklift injury at work. Jason was under the impression DC was solely targeted and feels it is worth looking into, but unsure if there is racial motivation or workplace bullying involved.

b. 76-22-021-EA

EA is an East Moline resident, but Project Now is in Rock Island. Steve wondered if the complaint has been brought to the employer's attention. Arbitration provision doesn't prevent us from investigation. Tamara shared that the lack of training may be the result of high turnover at the Project. David made a motion to accept the case, Janet seconded. Margie has asked to recuse herself from discussion of this case. Jason volunteered to contact EA and Steve offered to be a part of the discussion.

**AGENDA ITEM #6 – Commissioner Comments**

None

**AGENDA ITEM #7 – Adjourn**

Tamara made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Margie  
Meeting was adjourned at 5:26 pm

NEXT MEETING: **August 19, 2021**, 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.