



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
September 15, 2022; 5:00 pm**

Commission Members Present

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

(Virtual)
Sara Meyer
Vince Thomas

Commission Members Absent

Steven Andich
Thurgood Brooks
Gregg Hampton
Randall McMurray

Staff Present

Jerry Jones, City Liaison

Public Present

None

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

Janet called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm

AGENDA ITEM #2 – Public Comment

None

AGENDA ITEM #3 – Approval of Minutes from August Meeting

- David made a motion to approve the minutes. Jason seconded. Unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #4 – Old Business

- **Ordinance updates**

- Tamara spoke with her alderman and he was under the impression that the city council wanted a study session before they vote on the ordinance. Many of the city council members have concerns about subpoena power. Tamara gave reasons why subpoena power would be beneficial for our community at large and for the commission. Tamara encourages other commissioners to speak with their aldermen on the benefits. Discussion ensued about the fact that there have been several study sessions without any resolution. **Jerry made a request for a study session on 10/10/22 at 5 pm. All commissioners should attend if possible. Tamara urged us to continue contacting city council members.**

AGENDA ITEM #5 – Complaints

- **Closed Session: 5 ILCS 120/2(c) (20) The classification and discussion of matters classified as confidential or continued confidential by the State Government Suggestion Award Board.**

David made a motion to go into closed session. Jason seconded.

- Complaint: 82-2022 Letter was sent to Mayor Thoms and City Manager Todd Thompson via email. Members of the HRC met with the mayor and city manager to share concerns.
- Complaint: Received via email. Update from David and Tamara on the complaint. Tamara called multiple times and never responded to her. David called and Simon answered the call. He was originally interested in coming to a resolution and is no longer interested. He stated he does not have time and has put his home up for sale and plans to move his family. He also had no interest in taking down the sign. It's unfortunate that there could not be a resolution. Tamara and David will convey the information to Todd Thompson to update him on the issue.
- David made a motion to move from closed session. Tamara seconded the motion. Unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM #6 – New Business

- Please send a list of books or other resources for group members to further continue to educate ourselves and Christiana will compile the list to share with the group. Tamara would be willing to donate a batch of books to the commission.
- Jerry will check with Thurgood about his commission status, so we can fill his position if needed. The mayor is willing to take recommendations from us for new members, but he takes applications.

AGENDA ITEM #7 – Commissioner Comments

AGENDA ITEM #8 – Adjourn

David made a motion to adjourn at 5:51 pm.

NEXT MEETING: **October 20, 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.