

Charles A. Hill 3/28/23

Approved Minutes-Meeting of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission February 17, 2023

- I. Roll Call
Meeting called to order by Chair Ordaz at 1:19 pm. Commissioners Mandsager and Ordaz appeared in person and Commissioners Kooiker and Lipski appeared virtually. Commissioner White was absent
- II. Recognition of Staff, Public and Press. Joe Austen, Kaitlin Smith, Sarah Chicken, Sierra Walker, Katie Fiala, and Charles Hill in person. Frederick Sinkevich, Sarah Vanderploeg, Mathew Gore, Jacob Bennington, and Roberto Rodriguez.
- III. Moment of silence and remembrance for Alan Nagel
- IV. Approval of Minutes from January 20, 2023, meeting.
Minutes from the January 20, 2023, were presented and Commissioner Mandsager moved to approve. Commissioner Lipski seconded the motion. No discussion. Unanimously Approved
- New Business
- V. Public Comment-None
- VI. Outreach update by Joe Austen - Charles attended three recent events. Two with Banker's Trust Youth Boards and one with Drake Law School Public Interest Career Fair. At the Banker's Trust meetings he instructed the youth on how the ICRC operates. Future events this spring include a Latino Education Summit, the Governor's conference on LGBTQ youth, CelebrAsian, Prevent Child Abuse Iowa, and the Iowa Employment Conference. This summer we anticipate attending a number of Pride events and would like to travel outside of the metro.
- VII. Subcommittee Report – Charles attended two different subcommittees at the request of the Governor. One was a budget subcommittee where the Governor's proposed budget for FY24 was presented. The members of the subcommittee were informed that individual Commissioners may reach out to them. The other subcommittee meeting was for House Bill 126, which is the reorganization of state government. Commissioner Mandsager had a question related to how we would spend any increase in funding.
- VIII. Legislative Update by Sierra Walker and Sarah Vanderploeg – Sierra and Sarah gave a brief overview of the following bills: HF126, SF 37, SF252, SF 81, HF 8, SF 83, HF 180, SF 159, HF 190, and HF 325. Commissioner Mandsager had a question about the duties and powers of Commissioners to support/not support legislation. Commissioner Lipski spoke of her experience related to this earlier in her tenure as a Commissioner. Commissioners proposed having a special meeting on this subject within a week.
- Standing Business
- IX. Director's Report
 - a. Cogger 150 Year Recognition: Charles continued discussions with State Historical Museum Director Kloewer. Discussed Professor Woods conducting a lunch and learn and us assisting.

This is no cost. Presented options for displays: cardboard displays and fabric booths. Cardboard displays are \$150 and booths closer to \$6000.

- b. Staff Update—New hires: Sarah Chicken joined as Civil Rights Specialist. Alan Nagel was hired but passed away. Austin Moore and Andrea Hoyt have resigned since the last meeting. The Commission is actively hiring for three CRS positions. Upcoming interviews for summer interns have started. Building relationships with 3Ls at Iowa for potential future hires
 - c. U.S. Commission on Civil Rights - Rulemaking: Charles reached out to the Governor's office about this and their meeting with the NAACP. The Governor's office stated they would follow up if they needed additional information. Discussion on when the ICRC would be allowed to update its rules. Discussion on the NAACP's issue with jury pools in Iowa.
 - d. Production: Housing production had a good month: 13 completed investigations bringing the yearly total to 61. Additional staff and resources have been committed to the housing department to correct this. Non-housing production was up. 130 cases were screened in January. The highest number in at least 4 years.
 - e. Website Update: Website should be up before the next meeting.
- X. Litigation Update – Assistant Attorney General Katie-comment on a previously discussed housing case in district court. It settled the day before trial. Still waiting on another admin case for a decision from an ALJ discussed last time. Discussed bona fide religious exemptions under ICRA. Presented a PowerPoint on the issue. Bonafide religious exemptions covered in all five areas. Commission Mandsager had a question regarding the Establishment Clause.
- a. Charles recommended pushing the discussion on religious case data to next meeting as Commissioner White had requested it and she was absent.
- XI. Commissioners' Reports
- a. Commissioner Sam Kooiker- Reported on the need to have the Commission and Commissioners fully staffed with an Executive Director and two Commissioners appointed.
 - b. Commissioner Patricia Lipski—Thanked Charles and all the staff/Commissioners for their hard work.
 - c. Commissioner Dennis Mandsager- No report.
 - d. Commissioner Marcelena Ordaz- Thanked everyone for their work.
 - e. Commissioner Holly White- Absent
- XII. Set Next Meeting for March 17, 2023, at 1:15 p.m. (Later amended to March 24, 2023)
- XIII. Adjournment at 2:39 p.m.