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IOWA CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

STATE OF IOWA

KIM REYNOLDS, GOVERNOR
ADAM GREGG, LT. GOVERNOR

KRISTEN STIFFLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Friday, February 16, 2024, at 1:15 p.m.
6200 Park Ave.
Room 111
Des Moines, IA 50321

Approved Meeting Minutes

Unapproved Minutes-Meeting of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission February 16, 2024

I. Roll Call

Meeting called to order by Chair Ordaz at 1:15 pm. Commissioners De Kock, Kennedy, Mandsager, Ordaz, and White appeared in person. Commissioners Kooiker appeared via Zoom.

II. Recognition of Staff, Public, and Press

Staff: Kaitlin Smith, Katie Fiala, Fred Sinkevich
Public: Ralph Rosenberg
Media: None

III. Approval of Minutes from September, October, November 2023 meeting.

Minutes from the previous meeting were presented and Commissioner Mandsager had recommended corrections to November and emailed recommended changes. Daniel motioned to approve with Mandsager second. Approved.

IV. Agenda approval

Commissioner White motioned to move the standing business agenda item before standing business, Commissioner Kennedy seconded. Approved by unanimously.

Public Comment Written or Oral: Ralph Rosenberg spoke on the topic of legislative priorities focused on the boards and commissions and powers and duties within 216.

V. Old Business

Vote on adoption of Legislative Action Protocol - revision as discussed last month from feedback provided.
Motion made by Commissioner Kooiker, seconded by Commissioner Kennedy, Motion was moved, yes from Commissioners White, Ordaz, Kennedy, DeKock, One No from Commissioner Mandsager.

VI. Standing Business

Opened for Questions: No questions were brought forward for the Directors Report.

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Legislative Update

1. HSB 649: Definition of "man" and "woman"
2. HF 2082: Removal of "gender identity" as a protected class under ICRA
3. SF 2096: Elimination of gender balance on appointive bodies
4. HSB 614: "Religious Freedom"

Discussion on the bill relating to the boards and commissions.

Mandsager made a motion to file a lobbyist declaration against. Motion was not seconded.

Discussion on the bill relating to gender identity.

Mandsager made a motion to file a lobbyist declaration against HF2082, Don seconded the motion.

Kooiker offered a substitute motion to continue the conversation to the next meeting and request for additional data around the impact to the cases at ICRC and any implications to federal contracts. Holly White seconded the motion. Vote: Yes, White, Ordaz, DeKock, Kooiker No: Mandsager and Kennedy.

Questions for Director Stiffler:

Question: Why do we have two lobbyist declarations?

Did we file a fiscal note for HF2082?

New Business

Commissioner duties under Iowa Code 216.5 powers & duties Dennis Mandsager opened discussion reviewing the changes to 216. Since this was discussed earlier, no further discussion was made, moved to next agenda item.

VII. Commissioners' Reports

a. Commissioner Holly White – nothing to report.

b. Commissioner Marcelena Ordaz – nothing to report.

C. Commissioner Dennis Mandsager – Reported he had attended the subcommittee meeting regarding the proposed elimination of gender identity as a protected class. The hearing was very informative. Compelling stories were told by members of the class. He encouraged other Commissioners to attend hearings.

d. Commissioner Sam Kooiker – He suggested meeting next week, and that additional communication would be helpful.

e. Commissioner Don DeKock – Agreed with Dennis re: subcommittee meetings, encouraged others to attend sessions and to provide feedback as individuals as they feel compelled.

f. Commissioner Daniel Kennedy – nothing to report.

XIII. Set Next Meeting for March 22, at 1:15 p.m. Location to be announced. Date to be determined for a special session to review Board and Commissions bill.

XIV. Adjournment at 3:09 p.m.

DocuSigned by:
Marcelena Ordaz
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7/31/2024