IOWA CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

STATE OF IOWA

KIM REYNOLDS, GOVERNOR
CHRIS COURNOYER, LT. GOVERNOR

Friday, February 21, 2025 1:15p.m.
Pilot Knob Conference Room
6200 Park Ave., Des Moines, IA 50321

Minutes – adopted March 21, 2025

I. Roll Call Commissioners (Chair Ordaz, Vice Chair White, Secretary Kooiker, DeKock, Elsloo)

a. Recognition of Agency Leadership **1:16 called to order.** *All present, Kooiker present by zoom. Kristen Stiffler present in the room. Online: Fred Sinkevich, Katie Fiala, Andrew Greenberg – Assistant AG. Others: John Konior, Karen Mackey, K Watson, Latrice Lacey, Manisha Paudel, N Hall, Stephanie Stuecker.*

II. Approval of Minutes from January 17, 2025. ***Motion by DeKock, 2nd by Elsloo to approve. Unanimous.***

III. Acceptance of Agenda. Motion to move VIII, Strategic Planning to be after IV Public Comment and approve the agenda. *Motion by White, DeKock, unanimous.*

IV. Public Comment (oral or written) – pursuant to public decorum rules adopted on August 16, 2024, public comment shall be limited to four minutes. *No public comment.*

V. AG Update. *2:15 pm Andrew Greenberg. Iowa Civil Rights Commission v McKillip Case No. 23-1747. This is a housing case / sexual harassment. Received Appellate affirmation of ICRC's position in all aspects.*

VI. Director's update. *2:18 pm Hiring update for Education / Outreach coordinator. Also looking for efficiencies in the office.*

a. Impacts on the Agency due to the EO's signed by President Trump *Stiffler said this is under review.*
b. Update on legislation the Agency has weighed in on/is tracking *Stiffler discussed various legislation on the tracking sheet that she has provided. Wrapped up at 2:36 pm and moved into VII.*

VII. Powers & Duties – Policy recommendations:

a. Added 1/17/25: Timeframe for appeals, potential recommendation for change to the ICRA for HUD cases for 365 rather than 300 days. Follow-up planned for May 16, 2025 meeting. *No discussion, this will remain on agenda through May.*

VIII. Strategic Planning. (from August 16, September 20, October 18, November 6, November 22, December 20, 2025; January 17, 2025) *(considered after IV) DeKock asked if anyone had a chance to look at the bills. DeKock recommends the Commission weigh in favor of SF234 / HF244 (an Act relating to the offense of intentional misrepresentation of a service animal. Also SF208, that sexual attraction to minors is not protected by the ICRA.*

a. Commissioner Don DeKock – updates on legislator meetings

b. Continued discussion on mission and goals; consideration of mission statement (amendments possible at meeting): *Greenberg's recommendation is to have it be a separate agenda item at the next meeting.*

    a. Update on meeting with the 2/21/25 meeting with the Governor's office

White gave a review of the meeting with the Governor's office, which occurred the morning of 2/21/25. Discussion of the mission statement and goals of the commission. Governor's office indicated support for the mission statement. Stiffler discussed commissioner training / orientation. White offered to draft roles / responsibilities for Chair / Vice Chair / Secretary/ Lobbyist. Recommendation was to add the Mission Statement be a separate agenda item at the next meeting, also roles and responsibilities. Also the structure for weighing in on legislation. Recommendation by White is based on conversation with Governor's office is to be judicious about what we weigh in on, that waiting until after 1st funnel is worth considering. Meetings can be posted with 24 hours notice. During Chapter 1 review as part of EO10, the Agency and Commission will remain in communication about changes.

Here is a summary of the items for next time:

Vote on the Mission statement The Iowa Civil Rights Commission is dedicated to upholding justice and fairness by thoroughly reviewing appeals related to civil rights violations. We strive to ensure that every case is evaluated with integrity, transparency, and respect for all individuals involved.
Discussion and Adoption of Roles and Responsibilities

- *Commissioner*
- *Chair*
- *Vice Chair*
- *Secretary*
- *Liaison*

Discussion and Adoption of Action by Board / Legislative Items

- *Yes/No Support*
- *Formal Letters*
- *Formal Appearance*
- *Discussing Issues with Legislators*

This portion of the meeting wrapped up at 2:14 pm, back now to item V.

X. Commissioners' Reports

a. Commissioner Don DeKock – Lobbyist *Left the meeting about 2:15 pm.*
b. Commissioner Cheryl Elsloo *Following what is going on in the legislature.*
c. Commissioner Sam Kooiker – Secretary *Asked about participation in the 250th USA Anniversary to have a booth at the State Fair next year. Stiffler mentioned attending*
d. Commissioner Marcie Ordaz – Chair *No report.*
e. Commissioner Holly White – Vice Chair *No report.*

XI. Next Meeting – March 21, 2025 at 1:15 pm.

XII. Adjournment *Motion by Elsloo, 2nd by White to adjourn. 2:43 pm.*

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