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Friday, October 4, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.
Geode Conference Room
6200 Park Ave., Des Moines, IA
50321

Approved minutes

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

a. Recognition of Agency Leadership **Roll Call: Present – Ordaz, Kooiker, Elsloo. Not present – White and DeKock. Also present, Kaitlin Smith from ICRC.**

III. Acceptance of Agenda.

a. This is a working session to prepare for the next meeting on Friday, October 18 at 1:15 PM. This agenda does not contain a public comment period, but one can be added if there are others present to desire to speak. **Consensus to accept. Meeting time noted of 1:15 for 10/18.**

IV. Strategic Planning (from August 16 and September 20)

a. Discuss budget appropriation for Commission for FY25-26. **Kooiker suggested 3 parts – the basics for commission operations as before, 2nd would be planning for hearing costs. The 3rd would be fulfillment of the 3 parts stipulated in the recent code change – that portion we would need to discuss further.**

b. Continued discussion on mission and goals. (See draft minutes from September 20 for background).
   a. Report from De Kock re discussions with legislators.
   b. Report from Ordaz regarding discussions with Director Stiffler. **Ordaz stated her return date is estimated at November 4. She will reach out to Director Stiffler with the September 20 minutes and outcome of today's discussion.**

c. Requirements for Commissioners' annual report and reporting of appeals. **The question is, going forward, will there be a report from the Office of Civil Rights and a report from the Commissioners too? Either way, the consensus of the 3 Commissioners present is that appeals should be prominently mentioned in the report.**

Kooiker stated his belief the Commissioners all support Director Stiffler and the agency, and asked how we as commissioners can support the agency, which requires commissioners to be informed, which also helps with preparation for handling appeals. Kooiker expressed desire for DeKock to be able to continue to review closed cases, this is part of training and hearing preparation too. Ordaz concurred that continuing to meet frequently is important, and that hopefully there will be clarity soon. Kooiker asked if AAG Fiala could attend future meeting as her reports are valuable.

X. Next Meeting

b. October 18, 2024 (3rd Friday) at 1:15 pm.

XI. Adjournment Ordaz adjourned the meeting at 9:10 AM.

Any person needing special assistance or with accessibility needs should contact the Iowa Office of Civil Rights at 515-281-4121 or icrc@iowa.gov.

Signed by:
Sam Kooiker
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9/12/2025