

## **HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MINUTES**

February 16, 2023, 4:00 p.m.  
City Council Chambers

**PRESENT:** CHAIRPERSON PRO TEM Richard Zaker  
COMMISSIONERS Joyce Keller, Vivian Goodman, Jerry Pelz, and Mark Schleeter

**ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER Penny Rogers  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Sherry Beasley

### **I. Call to Order**

Human Resources Manager Penny Rogers called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

#### **A. Roll Call**

Five out of five Commissioners were present at the time of roll call. Human Resources Manager Rogers declared a quorum does exist to conduct and approve business.

### **II. Motion to Elect Chairperson Pro Tem to Preside at Meeting**

Human Resources Manager Rogers explained that since the Commission's Chair and Vice Chair have resigned, we need someone to serve as Commission chairperson pro tem until the next election which will take place in May. Commissioner Joyce Keller made the motion to elect Commissioner Richard Zaker as chairperson pro tem, seconded by Commissioner Jerry Pelz. Upon roll call, Commissioners Vivian Goodman, Joyce Keller, Jerry Pelz, and Mark Schleeter voted aye, and Commissioner Richard Zaker abstained. Human Resources Manager Rogers declared the motion carried.

Commission Chairperson Pro Tem Zaker welcomed Commissioner Mark Schleeter to the Commission.

### **III. Appearance of Citizens**

The following citizen provided comments to the Commission: Abeer Motan.

### **IV. Approval of December 15, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Goodman made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded Commissioner Pelz. Upon roll call, Commissioners Vivian Goodman, Joyce Keller, Jerry Pelz, and Commission Chairperson Pro Tem Richard Zaker voted aye, and Commissioner Mark Schleeter abstained. Commission Chairperson Pro Tem Zaker declared the motion carried.

**V. Monthly Activity Report & Summary of Cases**

Human Resources Manager Penny Rogers provided a monthly status report of cases. (Exhibit A)

**VI. Unfinished Business**

Commission Chairperson Pro Tem Zaker called for Unfinished Business and asked the Commission if they would like to comment on the following:

A. Recap on 2023 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. activities

- Human Resources Manager Rogers commented that she thought everything went very well, and she received a lot of positive feedback from the community and City employees about the speaker, the singer, the atmosphere in the theater, and the parking.
- Commissioner Pelz commented that he thought it was an extremely positive event. The music and the speaker were above his expectations.
- Commissioner Keller commented that she thought it was an exceptionally good and positive event. She thought the speaker was outstanding and next year the Commission might want to recognize Jimmy Taylor because he was very instrumental in getting Broadway Street changed to Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.
- Commissioner Goodman commented that she thought the event was excellent. She heard from one of the past speakers that this year's speaker was the best speaker for after the March program. The students did an excellent job. She also commented that her granddaughter enjoyed singing and thanked the Commission for allowing her to be a part of the event.
- Commission Chairperson Pro Tem Zaker commented that he was grateful for everything that happened during the March and presentation. Mr. Hansen did an excellent job and it was good he brought his students. The winners did a fantastic job.

**VII. New Business**

Commission Chairperson Pro Tem Zaker called for Unfinished Business

Commission Chairperson Pro Tem Zaker read a paragraph from the Commission's pamphlet to remind the Commission of how significant their work is.

**VIII. Other Business**

Commission Chairperson Pro Tem Zaker called for Other Business and introduced the following guest speaker:

- A. Evelyn Hood, Executive Director at the African American Cultural & Genealogical Society of Illinois Museum

Mrs. Hood discussed how the Museum came about and talked about some of the different exhibits at the Museum. The hours are Monday, Wednesday & Friday 12 pm – 5 pm.

Commission Chairperson Pro Tem Zaker stated March is Women's History Month and asked the Commission for suggestions for a speaker. Commissioner Keller suggested Keyria Rodgers at Millikin University.

**IX. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Commissioner Schleeter made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Keller. Upon call of the roll, Commissioners Joyce Keller, Jerry Pelz, and Commission Chairperson Pro Tem Richard Zaker, voted aye. Commissioner Vivian Goodman left the meeting at 4:43 p.m. before a motion to adjourn was called. Commission Chairperson Pro Tem Zaker declared the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.