



Governor Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor Adam Gregg
San Wong, Director

MINUTES

**Iowa Commission on the Status of Women meeting
August 24th, 2019, 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Location: Urbandale High School, Band Room
7111 Aurora Avenue
Urbandale, Iowa**

Commissioners present (in person or by phone)

Beth Coonan (Chair)
Sean Bagniewski
Sherill Whisenand
Wendy Musgrave
Tom Carnahan

Commissioners absent

Rachelle Hunt Russian (Vice-Chair)
David Gudenkauf

DHR/ICSW staff

San Wong, Director, Iowa Department of Human Rights
Monica Stone, Deputy Director, Iowa Department of Human Rights
Kristen Corey, Program Planner, Office on the Status of Women (Office)

Members of the public (present for all or part of meeting)

Karen Kedrowski, Director, Catt Center for Women and Politics at Iowa State University

Call to order

Called to order by Chair Beth Coonan at 12:37 p.m.

Approval of agenda

Motion to approve Oct. 24th agenda made by Whisenand; seconded by Carnahan.

Vote:

Aye: all

No: 0

Motion carried.

Iowa Commission on the Status of Women

Approval of minutes

Motion to approve May 28th, 2019 minutes made by Carnahan; seconded by Whisenand.

Vote:

Aye: all

No: 0

Motion carried.

Public Comment

Karen Kedrowski, Director of the Catt Center for Women and Politics, gave an update on the kick-off celebration for the 19th Amendment Centennial celebration that will take place on February 14, 2020 at the Memorial Union on the Iowa State University campus.

Debrief from the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame:

Commissioners discussed this year's Iowa Women's Hall of Fame ceremony. Some of the following suggestions, comments and questions were raised.

- When introducing the honorees on stage, people reading the script may want to add in personal anecdotes about each of the honorees.
- Introducers at the ceremony may want to sit in on the honoree interviews to get insight and ideas about what to say during the ceremony.
- Next year, we should reserve more parking for accessibility.

Debrief from the National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) Conference

Beth Coonan, Sherill Whisenand and Kristen Corey gave an update from the NACW conference they attended in late July 2019. The three gave a brief outline of the presentation they gave at the conference on Iowa's gender balance law and on the Iowa Talent Bank.

Iowa Department of Human Rights (DHR) Update

Monica Stone and Kristen Corey gave the update for the Iowa Department of Human Rights. Corey briefed commissioners on her work with the 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration committee, the Iowa Talent Bank, and a project she is working on in collaboration with Eric Morse and Karen Kedrowski that focuses on African American suffragists from Iowa.

Stone gave a report for the Division of Community Advocacy and Services. She mentioned that she will have more information available at the next Commission meeting about the data report that DHR is working on in collaboration with SPPG.

Constitutional Amendment: gender neutral language

Commissioners discussed a plan to change the language in the Iowa Constitution to be gender neutral. Several commissioners mentioned that in conversations with others, the following was brought up:

- If Iowa changes the Iowa Constitution, there is fear that it will be a slippery slope and more changes may follow.
- Most of the feedback received has been positive with a desire to make the Iowa Constitution more accurate.
- Need to find legislators who are interested in assisting/sponsoring.

Carnahan mentioned that he spoke to Senator Jochum about the change since she introduced SJR5 during the last legislative session. He added that she thought the resolution was dead for all intents and purposes.

Corey and Coonan mentioned that they were putting together a list of other organizations who may be interested in moving forward this piece of legislation. Coonan asked commissioners if they know of organizations or individuals who might be interested in moving this forward to reach out to Coonan or Corey.

Coonan mentioned that she will set up a meeting with the Governor's office and recommended that afterward the commission begins outreach to other women's organizations.

Stone mentioned that she would reach back out to Megan at the Governor's office to discuss this and other pending issues.

Old/New Business

Carnahan brought up an issue that was covered in the Des Moines Register about human trafficking. He mentioned that much of the funding was cut for programming that goes through the Attorney General's office. In Iowa City, they lost 4 positions because of the cuts to funding.

Stone mentioned that the Department could reach out to the Attorney General's office for more information.

Coonan mentioned that it would be nice to invite Gretchen Brown-Waech or other staff from the Attorney General's office attend a commission meeting to provide some background information about the subject. Corey offered to do that.

Carnahan mentioned that he would like to reach out to George Belitos and ask him to come to a commission meeting.

Hunt Russian, Corey and Coonan will be meeting with the Iowa Women's Foundation about child care and about ways we can potentially collaborate in the future. They will debrief the commission at the next commission meeting.

Set dates for 2019-2020 meeting

Corey will send out Doodle poll to schedule next meetings.

Motion to adjourn:

Motion to adjourn made by Whisenand; seconded by Bagniewski.

Vote:

Aye: all

No: 0

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.