



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

MINUTES

Iowa Commission on the Status of Women
May 23, 2018, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Room 208, Lucas State Office Building
321 E. 12th St., Des Moines, Iowa

Commissioners present (in person or by phone)

Tom Carnahan
David Gudenkauf
Rachelle Hunt Russian
Sherill Whisenand
Elizabeth Coonan, Vice-Chair (Acting Chair)
Sean Bagniewski
Wendy Musgrave

Commissioners absent

None

DHR/ICSW staff

Kristen Corey, Program Planner, Office on the Status of Women

Members of the public - present for all or part of the meeting

Betty Andrews

Call to order

Called to order by Elizabeth Coonan at 12:06 p.m.

Approval of agenda

Motion to approve May 23rd agenda made by Whisenand; seconded by Bagniewski.

Vote:

Aye: all

No: 0

Motion carried.

Approval of previous minutes

Minutes from March 7th

This item was tabled until the August 18, 2018 commission meeting.

Discussion and vote on the recommendations from the 2018 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame selection committee

Sherill Whisenand, commissioner and chair of the 2018 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame selection committee provided a summary of the recommendations for the 2018 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame.

The recommendations from the committee for induction into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2018 include:

- Dr. Dianne Bystrom, Ames
- Ruth Harkin, Cumming
- Dr. Jean Jew, Iowa City
- Dr. Peggy Whitson, Houston, TX (originally from Iowa)

The recommendation from the committee for the 2018 recipient of the Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice is Janice Edmunds-Wells (Des Moines).

Motion to induct Dr. Peggy Whitson into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame made by Whisenand. Seconded by Bagniewski.

Vote:

Aye: Unanimous.

Motion carried.

Motion to induct Ruth Harkin into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame made by Bagniewski. Seconded by Whisenand.

Vote:

Aye: Unanimous.

Motion carried.

Motion to induct Dr. Dianne Bystrom into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame made by Musgrave. Seconded by Whisenand.

Vote:

Aye: Unanimous.

Motion carried.

Motion to induct Dr. Jean Jew into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame made by Musgrave. Seconded by Bagniewski.

Vote:

Aye: Unanimous.

Motion carried.

Motion to award the Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice to Janice Edmunds-Wells made by Whisenand. Seconded by Bagniewski.

Vote:

Aye: Unanimous
Motion carried.

Iowa Women at Work Committee - Update

Coonan and Hunt Russian gave an update on the Iowa Women at Work project.

Hunt Russian mentioned that the committee met on May 3rd to take a look at the overall project and talked about potential ways to do additional outreach. Some of the next steps include focusing on outreach to specific populations during different months – for example, focusing on veterans during Military Appreciation Month.

Coonan added that the committee is reaching out to specific women's organizations (such as the Young Women's Resource Center) who have recently implemented family/female friendly leave policies to see if they would be willing to send the Commission their story of how and why they implemented their policies, and how it has been beneficial to them. She added that the committee has a desire to elevate the stories that are positive, and this could include telling the stories of places that are doing this well.

Policy Committee – Update and Discussion

Gudenkauf discussed an article that recently came out about a candidate for the Iowa House and the ability to use campaign contributions to pay for childcare costs. He asked commissioners if it is an issue the Commission is interested in learning more about or taking a stance on.

There was discussion that led to consensus to monitor the situation. Carnahan added that he would call and ask for a copy of the decision.

Commissioners discussed the fact that this could be something that will become more relevant as more women and younger generations run for office at increasing numbers.

Betty Andrews added that the NAACP, along with other organizations, has been focusing on the change in start times of the Des Moines elementary schools. She added that for families, the change in school times is a dynamic shifter and could have ripples throughout the rest of the state. She asked if the Commission would be willing to take a stance on the issue.

Corey mentioned that it would be a good idea for planning for future policy recommendations to start over the summer. Commissioner Carnahan and Gudenkauf will discuss some ideas.

Election of new Iowa Commission on the Status of Women officers

Chair

Motion to nominate Elizabeth Coonan for the position of Commission Chair was made by Whisenand. Bagniewski seconded the motion.

Vote:

Aye: Unanimous.

Motion carried.

Vice-Chair

Motion to nominate Rachelle Hunt Russian for the position of Commission Vice-Chair was made by Carnahan. Whisenand seconded the motion.

Vote:

Aye: Unanimous.

Motion carried.

Adjournment

Bagniewski made the motion to adjourn. Whisenand seconded the motion.

Vote:

Aye: all

No: 0

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Kristen Corey, staff.