



Governor Terry E. Branstad
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds
San Wong, Director

MINUTES
Iowa Commission on the Status of Women (ICSW)
May 25, 2016
Conference call – Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame

Commissioners present (by phone)

Phyllis Peters, ICSW chair
Rachelle Hunt Russian, chair, 2016 Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame committee
David Gudenkauf
Beth Coonan
Sherill Whisenand
Sean Bagniewski

Commissioners absent

Tom Carnahan

DHR/ICSW staff

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

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

Jacquie Easley McGhee

Call to order

Called to order by chair, Phyllis Peters at 10:31 a.m.

Motion to approve minutes from March 3rd, 2016:

Gudenkauf made motion;

Whisenand seconded.

Roll call vote taken:

Aye: all

Nay: none

Motion carried.

Public comment

Jacquie Easley McGhee commented that the past two years on the Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame committee have really been an eye-opening experience and she has been honored to serve on the committee. Having been raised in Iowa, she added that we are

surrounded by very inspirational and note-worthy women and to serve on this committee, brings it full circle. She thanked the commission for allowing her to serve on the committee for the past two years.

Report from the 2016 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame committee

2016 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame committee chair, Rachele Hunt Russian, gave an update from the selection committee meeting held on May 23rd, 2016. Hunt Russian thanked the members of the committee – Sherill Whisenand (Des Moines), David Gudenkauf (Cascade), Phyllis Peters (ex-officio; Ames), Jacquie Easley McGhee (Des Moines), and Robert Tyson (Waterloo).

Hunt Russian reported that the 2016 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Selection committee proposed the following women for the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame:

- Viola Gibson
- Michele Devlin
- Angela Connolly
- Grace Amemiya

The 2016 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Selection committee did not propose a 2016 recipient of the Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice.

Discussion and vote on the selected 2016 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame honorees

Motion to accept all four recommendations from the 2016 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Selection committee:

Hunt Russian made motion;
Whisenand seconded.

Discussion: Commissioner Coonan thanked those who serve on the 2016 committee and added that committee members did a nice job picking a diverse slate of candidates from around the state.

Roll call vote taken:

Aye: all

Nay: none

Motion carried.

Discussion and vote on the selected 2016 Cristine Wilson Medal recipient

Hunt Russian stated that in 2016, the ICSW received one nominee for the Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice. She added that the ICSW approved the nomination form for this award earlier this year. As a result of discussion during the

committee meeting, the committee did not feel it was in the spirit of receiving the medal for Cristine Wilson award for Equality and Justice to award the medal to the one recipient by default.

Gudenkauf added that when reviewing the 2016 nominations for this award, the concern was we were boxed in with only being able to evaluate one nomination. He suggested the commission should reach out a little further when we open the nominations for 2017.

Whisenand added that part of the discussion was that we shouldn't accept this nominee because we had only one nominee. She added that to add more nominations to the pool, advertising this nomination by word of mouth and getting word out sooner would be better. Whisenand stated that it is the duty of commissioners to help get the word out.

Peters stated that since commissioner Carnahan couldn't be on call, he sent an e-mail comment to her suggesting that the ICSW consider the nomination put forth from the 2015 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame committee last year for the Cristine Wilson medal. Peters asked for further discussion.

Gudenkauf added that the ICSW needs to discuss what this process is going to be.

Peters added that the Commission is in a transition from when the nomination process for this award used to be a brainstorming session and is now moving to a more formal nomination process. A potential action could be that commissioner Carnahan nominates that person for the 2017 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame.

Hunt Russian stated that there is currently a system in place. The new system that was approved by the ICSW to nominate a recipient for the Cristine Wilson medal consisted of completing a form. She added that the key is to complete the nomination form that is now required. Hunt Russian stated that as commissioners, each commissioner likely know at least 2-3 people commissioners could fill out forms for.

Commissioners agreed.

Peters summarized: Consensus was that the ICSW put on the agenda for commissioners not a review of the process, but an action item of coming to the August 20th commission meeting with one or more names submitted on the 2017 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Cristine Wilson Medal form.

Hunt Russian stated that it is instead informing commissioners that we need to complete the form to nominate someone for this medal by April 1st and sharing the link/document with individuals to fill out the form so that their name can go through the nomination process.

Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame solutions council – discussion on the creation of a commissioner-led task force

Peters outlined an idea for the commission that Monica Stone came up with related to the creation of an Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame Solutions Council. The idea of talking about a solutions council is to maintain a relationship with the Iowa Women’s Hall of Fame honorees that are living that would like to be involved with the ICSW and helping us move the needle forward. Peters added that a draft of a proposal for a Hall of Fame solutions council was presented to the commission through e-mail. Peters asked if there were volunteers to form a task force to look at the proposal and bring a refined plan of action to the next Commission meeting in August.

Commissioners Sherill Whisenand, Dave Gudenkauf, and Phyllis Peters offered to be on the task force with Monica Stone.

The task force will meet between now and August 20th and bring recommendations back to the ICSW in August.

Adjournment

Gudenkauf made a motion to adjourn.

Coonan seconded the motion.

Ayes: all

Nay: none

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Phyllis Peters, Chair

Kristen Corey, Program Planner