

Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2023

Present

Luanne Lo Monte; Ryan Maley; Maureen McKane; Susan Sosa Bachmeier; William H. Small Jr;
Penelope Torres

Absent

Robert Lundquist; Annette McMahon, Hortencia Ramos, Ricky Rodgers

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairperson Small called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM.

Ryan Maley took roll call and noted a quorum was present.

Michele Clark and Deb Lang of the City of Aurora were present.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Torres moved the minutes from the April 13, 2023, be approved., Ms. McKane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

No members of the public were present.

Consideration of New Commissioner's (AHRC)

Chairperson Small noted the Commissions till has one open seat. He stated he has asked the chair of the Indian American Community Outreach Advisory Board (IACOAB) for recommendations for the last Commissioner seat.

Update on Disbursement of Funds

Several donations have yet to be distributed. It has been difficult to contact the appropriate people. Mr. Maley suggested the checks be returned to the city.

Fairness & Equity for A Better Aurora / Community Outreach Updates

Commissioners reported no update on this topic.

Overview of Complaint Review Process

Deb Lang introduced herself. She has been assistant Corporation Counsel for the City for five years and works with City boards and commissions.

Chairperson Small reviewed a brief presentation on the complaint process. Highlights of the presentation were:

- A requirement to acknowledge the complaint within 10 days.
- A review of the factors for asserting jurisdiction of the Commission.
- A discussion of areas of discriminatory activity including what was and was not covered by the ordinance. Public education and private events are not covered by the ordinance.
- Discussion of the investigation, hearing process and conciliation conference. The Commission has flexibility in how they pursue investigations and resolution of complaints.

Case # 23 HRC 001

Commissioners discussed complaint 23-001. Commissioners reviewed the original complaint and the respondent's reply. It was noted the Complaint did not include statements supporting the belief that discrimination was involved.

After extended discussion, Commissioners agreed that parties should be asked for additional information. Specifically,

- 1) The Respondent should be contacted and asked about the process for offering additional accommodation (e.g., additional security deposits) for credit challenged rental applicants.
- 2) The Complainant should be contacted and asked (1) how they are aware of additional accommodations offered by the Respondent and (2) any additional details or statements in support of their allegation.
- 3) Complainant should be offered the opportunity to respond in writing or to schedule a time to speak with representatives of the Commission.

Ms. Lang will draft the responses and submit them to Chairperson Small for review and approval before sending.

Case # 23 HRC 002

Complainant was sent a certified letter on May 5, 2023, acknowledging receipt of the complaint. Respondent was sent a certified letter and personally served notice on May 5, 2023. Respondent has 30 business days to respond.

Commissioners held a brief discussion about the complaint. Commissioners discussed getting the police documents associated with the complaint. Ms. Lang took an action to pursue acquiring the documents from the Aurora Police Department, including using the subpoena power of the Commission if necessary.

During discussion, it was discovered that the PDF of the ordinance on the web site is the previous version of the ordinance. Ms. Lang and Ms. Williams took action to update the file to the correct version.

Other Business

Ms. Torres reminded Commissioners that the Aurora Pride Parade will take place on June 11, 2023. She stated there are opportunities to volunteer, participate and, of course, simply attend.

Commissioners who attended the World Relief gala noted that it was a very good event and they enjoyed attending.

Next Meeting

Chairperson Small stated the next meeting will be June 8, 2023.

Adjournment

Ms. Torres moved for adjournment of the meeting. Ms. Sosa-Bachmeier seconded. Commissioners unanimously agreed and the meeting was adjourned at 6:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Maley