

The RI CDHH Commissioner approved the minutes for the 06/23/2010 meeting on September 22, 2010.

Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

June 23, 2010

MEETING MINUTES

Commissioners Attending: *Travis Zellner, Ed Rawlings, Christine "Tina" Thompson, Mary Wambach, Lisa Lieberman Sack, and Jordan Sack.*

Commissioner(s) not Attending: *Andrew Knight, Sean Gill, John Dunsmore, James Compton, and James Simon*

Staff Attending: *S. Florio (Executive Director)*

Public Attending: *Jesus M Colon, Dr. Steven Sack, Kevin Blais, Linda Green, Karen Davis, Dorothy Hodge, and Jeannie Desmarais-Valdez*

Communication Accommodations:

Interpreters: Carol Fay and Heather Piasczyk

CART service: Jennifer Milette (formerly last name, Moore)

Location: *Conference Room A at the Department of Administration building (One Capitol Hill) in Providence, RI*

The meeting was called to order by Chair Travis Zellner at 6:08 pm.

CHAIR' REPORT:

- 1) Chair Travis conducted a roll call on Commissioners. He had received the message that Andrew Knight and Jim Simon could not come to the meeting tonight. He was not sure about the others so therefore, he was expecting them to show up eventually later that evening. He declared that the quorum was met because at least 5 commissioners were presented.

- 2) Chair Travis reviewed the interview process with the Commissioners including all "Deaf", "Hard of Hearing", and "Hearing" candidates.

Lisa Sack made a motion that the commissioners go into the Executive Session to discuss on the questions that will be used for the interview. Tina Thompson seconded. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

The executive session began at 6:13pm.

1. Review questions for the interview.
2. Reminded the Commissioners that one seat for "Deaf", one seat for "Hard of Hearing", and one seat for "Hearing" are up for appointment at the beginning of FY2011. Actually, two "Hard of Hearing" seats were up but because of RICDHH Bylaws, it allowed the 1st term commissioner, Tina Thompson, to seek for 2nd term without having to go through the interview process.
3. Concerns about not all candidates available for interview tonight.
4. Ideas of solutions to handle concerns.
5. General agreement that the only vote will take in place on the "Hearing" candidates tonight because all candidates were presented.
6. General agreement that the interview proceeded for "Deaf and Hard of Hearing" candidates who were presented tonight and would continue interviewing with the remaining candidates at the next meeting. However, they need to vote on "Deaf" and Hard of Hearing" candidates at the next meeting, not tonight.
7. Family members were reminded that they needed to recuse themselves from participating in the interview process for the "Hearing" candidates.
8. This same went for candidates who are current incumbents.

Tina Thompson made a motion to open the meeting. Lisa Sack seconded. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

The open session began at 6:39pm.

- 3) Chair Travis announced that he has asked all candidates of their preferences as to whether their interviews are held in the open session or in the closed session. All of them said they preferred to have the interviews to be held in the open session.
- 4) Chair Travis welcomed Jesus Colon, the "Deaf" candidate to the front table to begin the interview process. Jesus Colon reminded the Commissioners that he wanted the interview to be held in the open session.
- 5) After interviewing with Jesus Colon, Ed Rawlings recused himself as a commissioner from participating in the interview for the "Hard of Hearing" seat.
- 6) Chair Travis welcomed Kevin Blais, the "Hard of Hearing" candidate, to the front table for the interview. Kevin Blais confirmed that he wanted the interview to be held in the open session.

The meeting was on break at 7:10pm declared by Chair Travis.

The meeting was resumed at 7:20pm called by Chair Travis.

- 7) Jordan Sack and Lisa Sack recused themselves from participating in the interview process for the "Hearing" seat because they are the family member of Dr. Steven Sack, the "Hearing" candidate.
- 8) Chair Travis welcomed Karen Davis, the "Hearing" candidate to the front table to begin the interview process. Karen David would like the interview to be held in the open session.
- 9) After interviewing with Karen Davis, Chair Travis welcomed Dr. Steven Sack, the "Hearing" candidate to the front table for the interview. Dr. Steven Sack preferred that the interview was held in the open session.

After interviewing with Dr. Steven Sack, Mary Wambach made a motion to re-enter the Executive Session to discuss on the "Hearing" candidates' qualifications and experiences. Tina Thompson seconded. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

The Executive Session began at 7:51pm.

1. The commissioners discussed their qualifications and experiences.
2. Debated whether the quorum is met when the commissioners to vote on the "Hearing" candidates.

Tina Thompson made a motion to open the meeting. Mary Wambach seconded. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

NOTE #1: On July 21, 2010 meeting, Chair Travis declared that the motion above to re-enter the Executive Session to discuss on the "Hearing" candidates' qualifications and experiences is an automatic out of order because the candidates requested that the interview to be held in the open session.

The open session began at 8:15pm.

Mary Wambach made a motion that the Commissioners recommend Karen Davis for the Governor Cariceri to appoint to serve on the Commission. Tina Thompson seconded. Motion carried, 3 to 0. Result of votes is as follows:

Aye (3) – Travis Zellner, Mary Wambach, and Tina Thompson
Nay – 0
Abstained (1) – Ed Rawlings
Recused (2) – Jordan Sack and Lisa Sack

NOTE #2: On July 21, 2010 meeting, Chair Travis declared that the motion above to recommend Karen Davis is an automatic out of order because they should not enter the executive session at the first place.

Because of commissioners' concerns about quorum, Chair Travis requested Steve Florio to send a letter of inquiry to clarify on quorum to both Ethics Commission and Office of Attorney General.

NOTE #3: The definition of quorum is found from the Roberts' Rules of Order (RRO). According to RRO, the quorum is "64. A Quorum of an assembly is such a number as must be present in order that business can be legally transacted. The quorum refers to the number present, not to the number voting. The quorum of a mass meeting is the number present at the time, as they constitute the membership at that time."

Chair Travis reported that two interpreters were very tired at this point and he was concerned about the quality of information that may be deteriorating if we continue. Therefore, he recommended that all of the remaining business items on the agenda be tabled to the next meeting. The Commissioners were generally in agreement.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven A. Florio
Executive Director
(Secretary for the June 23, 2010 meeting).