# Minutes

# Iowa Commission for the BlindMarch 09, 2021

1. Call to order and determination of quorum. The quarterly meeting of the Iowa Commission for the Blind was called to order at 12:01 p.m., by Sandi Ryan, with the following members present: Sandi Ryan, chair, Geneva Jacobsen, member, and Ryan Brems member, which was a quorum. Others in attendance: Emily Wharton, Janice Eggers, Caroline Barrett (AAG), Helen Stevens, Cheri Myers, Kim Barber, Al Bickell, Kathy Roat, Sarah Willeford, Keri Osterhaus, Thomas Topping, Cindy Clefisch, Arlo Monthei, Elsie Monthei, Ashley Kirvin, Carrie Chapman, Jenny Gries, Kayla Weathers, Lisa Schneider, Martha Harris, Roxy Huffaker, Shawn Mayo, VR Intern, Ayo Davis-Yeboah, and Michael Barber.
2. Public Comment— none.
3. Approval of the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Brems moved and Ms. Jacobsen seconded, and the motion passed.
4. General Board Training - AAG Caroline Barrett presented Legal Overview of Boards and Commissions.
5. Election of the Chair. Ms. Jacobson nominated Sandra Ryan. On a roll call vote, the motion passed.
6. Election of the Secretary. Ms. Jacobson moved and seconded by Mr. Brems. Roll Call vote, the motion passed.
7. Approval of December 1, 2020 board minutes. Mr. Brems moved approval of the minutes as presented. Ms. Jacobsen seconded, and the motion passed.
8. Agency Director Report - Ms. Wharton shared:
   1. Any questions on any of the written reports in the packet from the leadership team?
   2. Forgot to include in my report the process for looking for a new name to the Orientation Center. In January Commissioner Ryan, Al Bickell, and I did a business class presented this. Worked with the students, then discussed this at the Director’s Forum, and will hold a couple more discussions for this. Will bring this to the commission board. Want to be transparent with the board and everyone about this process. Will share this out with ICUB and NFB for input as well.
   3. Number of successful closures we have is not what we want, during this time of the pandemic going into work has been a challenge. The average hourly wage was very nice to see and the higher number of hours. Improvement in the quality of positions and good to see these numbers going up. Wanted to commend the VR Counselors, Teachers and Center Staff who have worked to get this accomplished.
9. Approval Establishment of a Building Naming Taskforce. Mr. Brems moved approval of the Taskforce Purpose document as presented. Ms. Jacobsen seconded, and the motion passed.
10. Consideration of Closed Session. Ms. Ryan had Ms. Eggers read paragraph 1a from the Code of Iowa, Section 21.5(1)(a). Mr. Brems moved to adjourn to closed session. Ms. Jacobsen, seconded the motion. There was a roll call vote: Ms. Ryan, yes; Mr. Brems, yes; and Ms. Jacobsen, yes. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned into closed session at 1:08 p.m. The meeting entered into closed session at 1:10 p.m.

The meeting entered open session at 1:48 p.m.

1. Closed Session – no action taken
2. Adjournment – Mr. Brems moved the meeting adjourn. Ms. Jacobsen seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandi Ryan, Chairperson

Commission for the Blind

Janice EggersSecretary to the Commission/ Executive Secretary

Department for the Blind

/jce