



NEBRASKA EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION
MEETING OF MAY 19, 2023

Commissioner Arnold called the meeting to order in Lincoln, Nebraska at 9 a.m. on May 19, 2023. It was established, after a roll call, there was a quorum.

I. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present

John Arnold, Chair Person
Patrick Borchers
Eric Drumheller

Arla Jo Meyer, Vice Chair
Royce Jeffries
Lynn Brennan

Staff Present

Paula Gardner, Executive Director
Shelley Foss, Unit Director
Brandie Hinkle, Investigator III

Andrea Berry, Unit Director
Rebekka Hergenrader, Admin Tech

II. NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Director Gardner read the dates of publication for the current Commission meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Arnold approved the meeting minutes for April 21, 2023.
Commissioner Borchers seconded.

IV. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS

V. PUBLIC INPUT (Non-Case)

Limit of 5 minutes per person for a total of a 30-minute session.

GOVERNMENT

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2. Outreach Report—Executive Director, Paula Gardner

Director Gardner announced that the NEOC is working with the EEOC on doing outreach work with the Omaha Tribe on June 14, 2023. The EEOC has additional funding available for these joint outreach efforts, and the NEOC will be looking at doing radio ads in the area as part of these joint efforts.

3. Director's Report – Executive Director, Paula Gardner

Director Gardner introduced Hannah Liberator to the Commissioners, she is working under Shelley Foss. She comes from NDOT- Civil Rights division.

Director Gardner also introduced Brian Cutright as our new Housing investigator working out of the Lincoln office. Fun fact, he's a drummer.

Director Gardner informed the Commissioners that the vacant Investigator position has been posted and the hope is to have the position filled by the end of June. The position is open for either the Omaha or Lincoln office.

Director Gardner noted that Shelley Foss, Andrea Berry and she attended an EEOC Webinar training that covered Pregnant Workers Protection Act, which is a change to federal law that brings it in line with state law that was passed a few years ago. Also covered were continuing issues in employment in a post- pandemic workforce, artificial intelligence, opioid use in the workplace, equal pay and other legal updates.

Director Gardner stated there is a possibility that an in-person EEOC conference will be the same week as the July commission meeting. She said she should know more in June but brought up that it might be wise to move the July meeting up a week to ensure staff is available for the meeting.

Director Gardner indicated that the hearings officer's contract had expired in February 2023. The hearing officer agreed to another three-year contract. She may explore having the hearing officer review the current manual to ensure it is up to date and if not see if she would be willing to enter into a separate contract to update it for the agency.


4. Legislative Update--

The Legislature passed, and Governor signed off on, the budget for the state, including the NEOC. The budget is in line with what was requested.

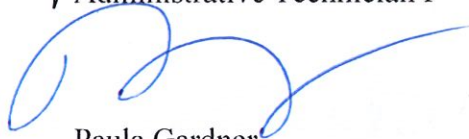
XV. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Arnold declared the May 19, 2023, Commission meeting ended at 10:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Rebekka Hergenrader
Administrative Technician I

5.31.23
Date


Paula Gardner
Executive Director

5.31.2023
Date

The Minutes of the Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission meeting of May 19, 2023 have been corrected and accepted, and henceforth approved on this date.


Chairperson

6/16/2023
Date