MINUTES

# INDEPENDENT CITIZENS COMMISSION

# May 15, 2019

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The Independent Citizens Commission met on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in room 151 of the State Capitol in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Commission members present Mr. Chuck Banks, Mr. Tommy May, Mr. Nathan Evers, Mr. Phillip Fletcher. Mr. Jonathon Rogers, Mrs. Jan Zimmerman, Mrs. Annabelle Imber Tuck. Also present, Ms. Melanie Jenkins-commission staff with the Auditor of State’s office.

**Vote for Chairman**

Justice Imber Tuck nominated Mr. Chuck Banks. Jan Zimmerman seconded Mr. Chuck Banks nomination. With no objections Mr. Chuck Banks is Chairman.

Chairman Banks thanked the committee for the nomination and discussed the importance of the commission and everything it is charged with.

**Consideration of Stipend**

Commission discussed voluntary $85.00 Stipend for each meeting. After some discussion the board voted without objection to not be paid anything for their service on the Commission.

**Commission discussion**

Chairman Banks stated the Freedom of information act and other matters will be presented by Nga Mahfouz at the next meeting, Chairman Banks gave a brief summary of FOIA. In summery discussions between commissioners in private that invades the issues that are before this body is not consistent with Freedom of Information Act. All discussions, all presentations, all arguments will all be on record and that’s what we want is full transparency so our fellow citizens can see what is going on. Let’s keep everything on Record.

Chairman Banks brought to the commissions attention in the packet they were given they have a letter by Arkansas District Judges Council. In the letter they respectfully request that State District Court Judges be afforded the same pay raise as all state employees. (*letter can be found under public comments 5/15/19)*

Floor is open for discussion to set the next meeting date so that Dr. Shelnutt with DFA can come give a presentation to the commission on the budget for the state. After discussion July 25th & 31st are the two dates that the commission chose for the next meeting at 10am instead of 9am. Ms. Jenkins will get with Dr. Shelnutt to see which date will work for him to give a presentation to the commission.

**Public Comment**

Chief Justice Kemp- Passed out a letter to the commission (*letter can be found under public comments 5/15/19)*

Ed Clausen with the Arkansas Judicial Council Board of Directors-Passed out a letter to the commission. (*letter can be found under public comments 5/15/19)*

Commissioner Tuck requested additional information access to national center on state courts information. Marty Sullivan with the AOC will get that information to the commission for review.

There being no further business. Meeting adjourned.

Handouts and complete audio of the meeting can be found at <http://citizenscommission.ar.gov>