

Alexandra "Sondra" Wilson

Ames, IA 50014

Iowa Civil Rights Commission
State Office Building
400 E. 14th St.
Des Moines, IA 50319

Request for Appeal CP #04-22-7265

Dear Iowa Civil Rights Commission:

Although I am writing to request an appeal, my hopes for finding justice for this case have diminished as a result of the several false accusations and slanderous statements Nissen made in her response to the ICRC. I received a copy of these statements within the packet I received from ICRC on 8/3/2022, and I am appalled by and upset about her malicious dishonesty. I sincerely thought Love Club would simply settle because they knew what happened to me was wrong, and frankly I worked hard for them and accomplished a great deal during the months I worked there. However, instead their response, via Nissen, included the following false, slanderous accusations:

"Nissen alleges Complainant would come here regularly to talk about the garden and her ideas for it."

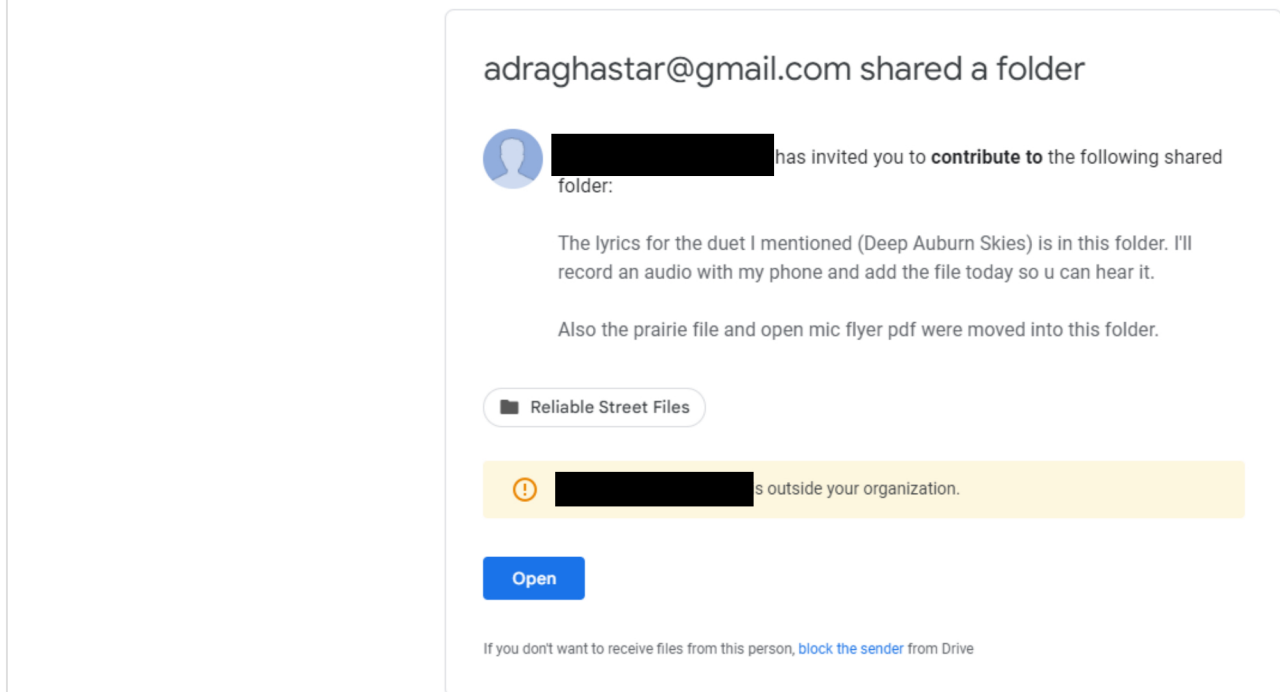
>>>> I never "cornered" Nissen to talk about the garden. She is the owner of the property. Mrs. Stewart (owner of Lockwood) frequently told me to "talk to Lyndsay (Nissen)" because she had "the final say" on anything property related. I approached Nissen to get permission at various times before making major changes so that she would not be disappointed with the results. Nissen *never* showed disinterest, annoyance, or otherwise when discussing the garden project. Rather, she often brought it up. I don't like how she now is attempting to frame these conversations as if I "cornered" her. That is ridiculous.

"Nissen states she told Complainant that yes, she could have the opportunity to work on the land, but that the others already involved had a plan. Complainant soon came up with the idea of a prairie, and Nissen encouraged her to talk to the other involved parties who already worked on the garden project. Regardless, Nissen states Complainant began to clear the weeds from the space she wanted to work in without talking to anyone else about it, and the prairie became an obsession."

>>>> Nissen and Stewart asked me to take lead the garden project, and to coordinate

with Lockwood Cafe employees [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and SHEPH. They wanted me to take charge of the project because the high schoolers did not have time to perform many tasks which needed done. I suggested installing native tallgrass prairie to replace the tall weeds surrounding and encroaching into the garden, and on Oct. 22 I sent Nissen a proposal to install native tallgrass prairie; screenshot:

On Fri, Oct 22, 2021 at 12:47 PM Sondra Wilson (via Google Drive) <drive-shares-dm-noreply@google.com> wrote:



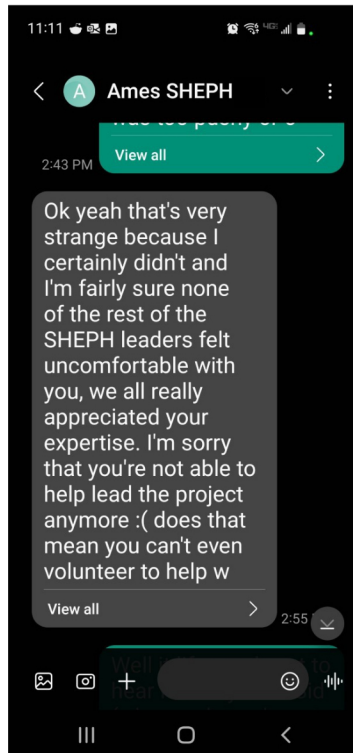
Continued: On Oct. 26 at the open mic Nissen approved the installation of the prairie, and on Oct. 31 I began clearing weeds. Nissen was aware that [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] had assessed the property for prairie installation. Nissen lied when she claimed that I “began to clear the weeds from the space she wanted to work in without talking to anyone else about it” and when she claimed that “the prairie became an obsession”. Nissen approved prairie installation, and she attempted to shine me in a negative light when claiming it “became an obsession”. I performed the labor we agreed upon, and approached her with ideas to get approval. How she now attempts to cast me in a negative light is disappointing, false, slanderous, and unfair.

“Nissen says she agreed Complainant could plant a prairie, and Complainant continued to push her for more control of the project.”

>>>> Again Nissen attempts to cast shade on my character. What she said is absolutely false.

“Nissen alleges Complainant did not listen to others, she bulldozed them, and Nissen states she continued to attempt to get Complainant to listen to other people.”

>>>> Nissen again is lying about my character and attempting to cast me into a negative light. I did not “bulldoze” anyone. For example, after Nissen removed me from the project and barred me from the property, I messaged SHEPH's president, [REDACTED] with regard to what happened. You can tell by her response that students from SHEPH were not feeling “bulldozed” or as if I hadn't listened to them. Again Nissen is lying and attempting to cast shade on my character, and I am extremely disappointed in her.



“Nissen states Complainant wanted to raise money to buy the seed for the prairie but never did, instead she asked Nissen and others for donations for it.”

>>>> I asked Nissen and others if they had any ideas for raising some funds for it. I never asked anyone for money for the project. Again Nissen is lying.

“Nissen notes the prairie was not the community project, the garden was.”

>>>> [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were both excited about working on the prairie together. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were also excited about it. SHEPH members were excited about it, and one member particularly was as she had written a paper about Iowa native prairie. While SHEPH did not have time to work on it, they were supportive and excited about it. Besides them, however, several community members donated time to help with the prairie. Although I proposed the idea, several people were involved. Again Nissen

is lying and attempting to cast me in a negative light.

“Nissen recalls Complainant spent money on garden purchases without authorization....”

>>>> I did not spend money on garden purchases without authorization. Nissen entrusted me with discretion with regard to improving the garden – she told me she was really impressed and happy with how the garden was looking after I installed 4x4s and wood chips which I purchased with my own money as donations to the project.. They were essential purchases because they were required by the City of Ames fire regulations for use in fire prevention throughout the prairie area. Again Nissen is lying. I feel used by her for my labor and kindness, and slandered by her repeated, manipulative lies which are aforementioned.

“[S]he began to solicit funds for them from café employees and customers, and others involved with the garden, which became very uncomfortable.”

>>>> Again Nissen is lying. I never asked any cafe employees or customers – or others involved with the garden – for money. Here is what happened: when I told [REDACTED] that I purchased the 4x4s and related supplies due to the urgency of the project (the prairie was scheduled to soon be planted, and the area needed to be brought to fire code), [REDACTED] told me that I should really talk to Lockwood owners and Lyndsay about making the purchases. Lockwood owners and I discussed the garden frequently because several of them were involved, so I asked if they had any suggestions for getting donations for additional supplies. I was directed to talk with Nissen about this because she owns the property (she owns Love Club and appears to the CEO of Reliable Street, Inc.) It was the very next day that Nissen banned me from the property and robbed me of several months labor while slandering my name throughout the community.

“Nissen states Complainant had become “obsessed” with [REDACTED], to the extent that Complainant was stalking and harassing her.”

>>>> Again Nissen is lying. I never stalked nor harassed [REDACTED] and the fact that she's lying about this is another example of how she is choosing to abuse me via trying to accuse me of something which is used as a typical stereotype against transgender women. Nissen has shown to me that she is an abusive, manipulative person.

“When the [REDACTED] complained to Stewart, she and other employees such as [REDACTED] shared that Complainant had also made racist comments and inappropriate comments about employees’ sexual identities, and they provide text messages and statements from employees and patrons who express these sentiments and those communications.”

>>>> I never made racist comments nor did I make inappropriate comments about employees' sexual identities. I don't know what text messages or statements were taken out of context (or lied about) and submitted to you, but I am very against racism and sexism.

“One text message is a conversation between Complainant and an employee where Complainant wrongly identifies and asks questions about the employee’s national origin.

>>>> I need more context (not sure what text this is), however I am absolutely certain that if I was inquiring about someone's ancestry, it was because I'm a history nut. Whatever I texted to whoever this is about is absolutely taking it out of context in order to slander my reputation.

“In a statement, a patron alleges he witnessed Complainant make racially insensitive comments, and Complainant harassing staff at the café, including asking them, other patrons, and even the high school students in SHEPH for money for the garden projects.”

>>>> Whoever stated these things (assuming it is [REDACTED]'s best friend Charlie Esker) is absolutely lying. None of these things occurred. Again, I am very against racism and I never asked members of SHEPH, Lockwood staff, or patrons for money. SHEPH and I discussed fundraising ideas, but Esker was not present for these conversations and is lying. Esker displays sells his art and has a studio on the property where he works. However, here he pretends he's “a patron who witnessed this”. These people are complete jerks.

“The patron alleges Complainant harassed him by texting and calling him and numerous others in the community, multiple times a day.”

>>>> I texted people, and people texted back, but to now claim that I was harassing when we were having conversations they participated in is another lie. These people are evil.

“Nissen states Complainant was extremely defensive, did no personal reflection, and did not accept any responsibility.”

>>>> What I was being accused of never happened, so no I will not accept responsibility for that. More manipulative lying from Nissen here.

“Nissen notes she gave Complainant \$300 in cash for the money Complainant spent without asking....”

>>>> Nissen gave me money to reimburse me for the purchases I made the two weeks prior for the fire safety. I never asked her for this money. Again Nissen is being manipulative and false in her claims.

“Prairie seed, though Nissen also provides an email stating Complainant was purchasing the prairie seed as a donation.”

>>>> My boyfriend donated \$100 toward the prairie see purchase. Nissen said she would cover the rest. Anything she stated that doesn't align with this again is more manipulation.

In closing:

I really don't anticipate ICRC to take further action on this, however with Nissen, Esker, and others making abusive, false statements against me on the record, I felt it is necessary to file this appeal to refute their awful statements. I regret volunteering for them, and have learned in the future to always get a contract.

ICRC employees: thank you for your help in this matter. I really thought Nissen would just reimburse me for my time following the original filing – I had hoped for a mediator to be provided by ICRC, but I absolutely did not expect Nissen and related parties to file a string of lies and bullying within their statements. Now on your end it just probably looks like my word against theirs. I don't expect to find justice for how I was treated.

Sincerely,
Sondra Wilson