

**CITY OF DUBUQUE
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
January 11, 2010**

Commissioner Rubinstein called the meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 4:17 p.m. on Monday, January 10, 2010, in Conference Room 2 at the City Hall Annex.

Roll Call:

Present:	Jim Allan Anthony Allen, Vice Chair Lori Apel Marcos Rubinstein, Chair	Colin Scott Pam Sharrad R.R.S. Stewart Lynn Sutton
Absent:	Katrina Wilberding	
Staff:	Kelly Larson	Carol Spinoso Molly Menster

Oath of Office

Commissioner Rubinstein administered the Oath of Office to Commissioners Apel, Sutton, and Sharrad

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Allen moved and Commissioner Scott seconded to approve the minutes of November 9, 2009. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.

Appoint Alternate to DCAP

Commissioner Allan moved to appoint Commissioner Rubinstein to serve as the Commission's primary delegate to the Dubuque Community Advisory Panel (DCAP). Commissioner Allen seconded. All in favor.

Review History of Housing Testing/No Testing in Dubuque

This agenda item will be tabled until Commissioner Wilberding is present to discuss.

Discuss Change to Meeting Start Time

It was the consensus of the commission that the meeting time remain at 4:15 p.m.; but allow for an occasional change in location and time with advance notice to commissioners.

Discuss Meeting Ending Time

Commissioner Allan moved that the commission generally end meetings at 5:30 p.m. with the understanding that anyone is free to move to extend the meeting for a period of time. Commissioner Allen seconded. All in favor.

ADA Enforcement by ADA Inspector

Kelly stated that the City Council has authorized the ADA Inspector to issue municipal citations to businesses that fail to comply with the ADA requirements.

Discuss Co-sponsoring Public Forum on Marriage Equality

Molly explained that One Iowa is a non-profit organization that works in support of civil marriage for gay and lesbian couples in the state. As opposition is increasing against it, they are holding public forums in various cities around the state. One Iowa is asking organizations to say they

are supportive of the mission of One Iowa and marriage equality. Commissioner Allen questioned the conditions of their sponsorship and whether this is a one-time effort for Dubuque, or would they be listed as supporters in other communities as these forums are held across the state. Kelly will obtain clarification as to the parameters of their sponsorship. Commissioner Allan moved that the Commission sign the letter of co-sponsorship for any discussion sponsored by One Iowa regarding marriage equality in the event the forum is held prior to the next Commission meeting. Commissioner Allen seconded. All in favor.

Caseload Report

Written report submitted. No questions or concerns regarding the November and December Caseload Reports.

Chairperson's Report

Commissioner Rubinstein expressed concern about the current situation with the operation of the Section 8 program and recommended that the commission look for ways to collaborate with the Housing Commission. He suggested meeting with the Housing Commission Chair to get a dialog started. Commissioner Allan suggested expanding that to a panel discussion and including representatives of the landlords association. Marcos will make the contact and report back.

Director's Report

Written reports for November and December were submitted.

Review Goals

Commissioner Allan suggested that they subdivide each goal and then each commissioner take on an issue that they are enthusiastic about and capable of completing. He also encouraged some sort of a celebration with the City Council when goals have been reached to gain identity to the public.

Speakers' Bureau: Commissioner Allan stated that he recently spoke with Vince Vanden Huevel, former commissioner and National Origin Subcommittee Chair, regarding the Speakers' Bureau. He indicated that he and other subcommittee members were willing to take on the tasks of the Speakers' Bureau to alleviate the pressures of the staff and commission so that they can focus on other goals. Commissioner Allan volunteered to work with the subcommittee as the commission liaison.

Town Hall Meetings: It was suggested that the town hall meetings be held in conjunction with regular commission meetings at a time that works for most people. The agenda would include a particular topic that they want public input on. Commissioner Allen suggested that the planning for this goal begin immediately.

“Meet the Council”: Commissioners discussed whether they would meet council members at a regular meeting or an outside venue; perhaps a breakfast event. Commissioner Allan interjected that the commission should periodically report their progress and activities to the City Council.

Housing Issues: Consensus was that the housing goal would be their primary focus this year. Commissioner Allan suggested that someone draft a mission statement for this initiative. Commissioner Allen suggested that they meet with the Housing Commission in March to gather more information so they can decide on which issues they want to address.

New Business

Kelly stated that the next Legislative Day/breakfast is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 16. If commissioners are interested in attending, they should let Carol know by the end of January.

Adjournment

Commissioner Allen moved to adjourn and Commissioner Scott seconded. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

The next regular meeting is February 8, 2010.

Minutes approved as submitted: _____

Minutes approved as corrected: _____