

**CITY OF DUBUQUE
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
August 9, 2010**

Commissioner Allan called the meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 4:24 p.m. on Monday, August 9, 2010, at the City Hall Annex, 1300 Main Street, Dubuque, Iowa.

Roll Call:

Present:	Anthony Allen, Chair Marcos Rubinstein Colin Scott	Lori Apel R.R.S. Stewart Lynn Sutton, Vice Chair
Absent:	Pam Sharrad Frederick Davis	Katrina Wilberding
Staff:	Kelly Larson	

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Rubinstein moved to approve the meeting minutes of July 8, 2010; Commissioner Scott seconded. No discussion. All in favor. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Safe Communities Task Force Recommendation

Kelly reported that the Safe Communities Task Force is recommending, as a high priority, to increase work around issues of human relations and cross-cultural issues. Kelly submitted a recommendation to the City Council related to that piece which focuses on the Department spending more time on conflict, developing something where they can offer pre-complaint mediation options. In addition, they will work to enhance our intercultural competence work with organizations. As a result of that recommendation, the Human Rights and Legal Departments would do some reorganization of duties. The investigations and enforcement actions would be shifted to the Legal Department and Human Rights staff would focus more on the proactive work of getting people to increase their understanding of cross-cultures. She stated that multiple proposals will be discussed at a City Council work session at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday evening.

Discuss Partnership with Day of Peace Partnership Committee

Commissioner Allen referenced a letter from Art Roche, of the Day of Peace partnership planning committee, inviting the Commission to partner with them in a week-long celebration of peace. Commissioner Rubinstein provided some background information for this event as he is part of the organizing committee. He stated that Ken Butigan will speak on conflict transformation in families on September 19 at 7:00 p.m. at Loras College, and that there are many other events being sponsored throughout that week. Kelly states that the Multicultural Family Center is planning activities, and that the Dubuque Dispute Resolution Center is partnering with the planning group to present a proclamation to the City Council. Commissioner Stewart moved to add the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to the list of partners. Commissioner Apel seconded. All in favor. Commissioner Rubinstein abstained. Commissioner Stewart suggested that each Commissioner become involved with whatever event they may be interested in, and moved that the Human Rights Commission partner with the DDRC and the planning committee in presenting the proclamation to the City Council. Commissioner Apel seconded. All in favor. Commissioner Rubinstein abstained.

Fair Housing Subcommittee Update

Testing timeline: Commissioner Allen asked for input on a draft letter he prepared for submission to the City Council that provides information on their fair housing efforts and possible contract with ICRC in conducting testing in Dubuque. He stated that he spoke with Ralph Rosenberg, Director of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission at the HUD Conference regarding conducting fair housing testing in Dubuque. He stated that they may decide to prosecute any finding of illegal discrimination. Ralph suggested that we proceed with sending the letter to the City Council and then submit a request to the ICRC. Commissioner Scott suggested that they list some of the concerns that citizens voiced during their fair housing forum. Commissioner Allen asked that they provide any feedback/revisions to him by tomorrow so that it can be submitted in time for Monday night's Council meeting.

Forum Updates

Fair Housing Forum: No report given.

ADA Forum: In reference to Abi's ADA Activity Summary Report, Commissioner Stewart asked how they should proceed; specifically with the concerns with the Independent Living Center (CIL). She questioned whether that was something the Commission wanted to advocate for, or just encourage service providers to coordinate for. Commissioner Rubinstein thought that this should fall under the disability subcommittee so that they can take a more proactive role in bringing organizations together. Commissioner Scott recommended contacting the City ADA Inspector in a couple months as he was going to follow-up on compliance issues that were raised during the ADA forum. Commissioner Stewart stated that Gary has followed-up and that that information is included in the report. Commissioner Allen asked commissioners to look over the summary report and bring suggestions to next month's goal setting session so they can identify needs. Commissioner Stewart will meet with Commissioner Wilberding to discuss the idea of reestablishing the disability subcommittee, and to discuss, revise, and add to the ADA Activity Summary Report. Commissioner Stewart will send the report out to roundtable participants and attendees.

Caseload Report

A written report for July was submitted.

Chairperson's Report

Commissioner Allen reported that this year's HUD conference, "A Time to Act" was very informational. He will put his notes together for discussion at Tuesday's work session. He is contemplating developing mini commercial type videos to run on Channel 8 to help educate the public on the protected classes.

Director's Report

Written report submitted. The next Police Community Dialogue on Race will be held August 19 at 6:00 p.m. at the Multicultural Family Center. The UN International Day of Peace is September 18-21. Specific details will be provided on the website www.dbqdayofpeace.org as groups join in and plan their events.

Public Hearing

Kelly provided information on the upcoming public hearing and commissioner administrative responsibilities. Commissioners Stewart and Scott will sit on the hearing panel with ALJ Henry Bevel. Alternates are Commissioners Rubinstein and Sharrad. The hearing is scheduled for August 30 -31, 2010, from 9:00 – 5:00, in Council Chambers. Kelly stated that if commissioners chose to attend the hearing, they will need to attend the entire proceeding. Following the hearing commissioners will need to read the entire transcript and review exhibits and the decision prior to deciding the case. The Commission will then hold a closed session to deliberate and decide the case.

New Business

Commissioner Rubinstein expressed disappointment about the lack of a response from the July 14, 2010 letter sent to the Superintendent of Schools regarding equity issues. Kelly stated that she spoke with the Superintendent at a function, and that she indicated that at this point there hadn't been a decision made as to who will handle the equity issues for the district.

Commissioners proposed September 17, or sometime between the weeks of September 12-25, 2010 to hold the goal setting session. It was suggested that, depending on availability, either Art Roche or Jan Powers facilitate the session. Notice will be sent out as soon as a date and facilitator are confirmed.

The Multicultural Family Center sponsored a Summer Street Jam from 1 – 9:00 p.m. on August 6. Their next event is The Body Talks performance on August 12 from 6 – 7:00 p.m. The NAACP picnic is at 1:00 p.m. on August 21 at Comisky Park.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Rubinstein. Second by Commissioner Sutton. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

The next meeting will be September 13, 2010.

Minutes approved as submitted: _____

Minutes approved as corrected: _____