

**CITY OF DUBUQUE
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
March 22, 2012**

Commissioner Allen called the meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 4:43 p.m. on Thursday, March 22, 2012, at the City Hall Annex, 1300 Main Street, Conference Room II Dubuque, Iowa.

Roll Call:

Present:	Anthony Allen, Chair Andrea Beacham Mike Elliott	Mitzi Krey RRS Stewart
Absent:	Kurt Hansen Regine Ronek	Miquel Jackson Judie Root
Staff:	Carol Spinoso	Kelly Larson

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Elliott moved to approve the Human Rights Commission meeting minutes of January 9, 2012. Commissioner Stewart seconded. All in favor of approving the meeting minutes as submitted.

Reports

Caseload Report

Written monthly reports for January and February 2012 were submitted.

Chairperson's Report

Commissioner Allen commented that he felt the training that Kelly presented to DCAP members was very beneficial. The group will now put together an educational piece to get the community more engaged with DCAP.

Commissioner Allen stated that DDRC mediators met with Molly Menster to discuss planning of the May 1, 2012 focus group they are organizing to get individuals engaged in community mediation. The group will provide diverse perspectives about the current community mediation services provided by the City.

The Safe Community Advisory Commission is working with the Golden View, Advertiser, and Dubuque365 to publish a series entitled "I'm a Dubuquer."

The Chair announced that Taste of the World will be held Saturday, March 31 from 11:30 to 2:00 p.m. at Five Flags, and that ICC training is being offered to boards and commission members once again April 9 and 23. He encouraged attendance to those who haven't attended.

Director's Report

Written Director Reports submitted for February. Kelly added that she will begin recruiting for an AmeriCorps VISTA member. This person will be continuing the work of VISTA Mary Bridget Corken, who has been working to establish a better system for the use of volunteers in the community. Kelly distributed information on the Community Gardening Project, and communication from Jeff Fischer who works for the Iowa Immigration Education Organization related to a project entitled "Welcoming Iowa." The group wants to create a more welcoming atmosphere in Iowa communities by bridging

the gap between US-born and foreign-born residents. He is asking us to identify grass roots connections in the community who would adopt the "Welcoming" initiatives. Kelly referred him to the Presentation Lantern Center, the Community Foundation, and the Sisters who put up the welcoming billboards. Commissioner Allen asked Commissioners to review the communication and asked that this item be included as an agenda item for next month's meeting.

Old Business

Review and discuss current goals and collaborations

Goal #1: Increase opportunities for citizen dialogue and education around human rights issues. Commissioners Hansen, Elliott, Jackson, Allen and Krey are on this subcommittee.

Goal #2: Improve HRC quality. Commissioners Hansen, Root, Ronek and Allen.

Goal #3: Improve tenant/landlord communication. Commissioners Root and Stewart. It was suggested as an initiative to partner with the Safe Community Advisory Committee. Kelly stated that the Landlord Association had contacted her inquiring about the creation of the Tenant Association and that she informed them that it is a Commission goal for 2012. It was suggested to invite Joe Knoll to participate in this initiative.

Goal #4: Decrease incidents of bullying and violence. Commissioners Beacham, Stewart and Allen. Commissioner Stewart liked the idea of holding a public forum once a year in the summer. Suggestions included the Third Way training event that the DDRC is discussing, or Getting to Yes, or maybe partnering with PFLAG and the GLBT community. Kelly suggested contacting Ben Bartels at the UD as he is doing peer mediation with students and may be willing to be part of the subcommittee in helping to put together a forum. The committee will meet at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, March 24 at Jitterz to begin planning.

Goal #5: Help promote the NAACP. Commissioners Elliott, Root and Krey. Commissioner Krey stated that they need volunteers to help with three events they are planning for this summer, and that they also need assistance with the NAACP newsletter. The committee will meet April 9 at 3:30 p.m. at Jitterz.

Commissioner Allen will contact subcommittee members involved with goal #1 and #2 to arrange meetings. He will also make contact with Commissioners Root and Ronek regarding their commitment to serving on the subcommittees they signed up for. Kelly recommended reaching outside the commission to recruit subcommittee members to help. A suggestion was made to contact current HR applicants to see if they would be interested in serving on subcommittees. Remember to notify Carol when meetings are scheduled so she can send public meeting notices.

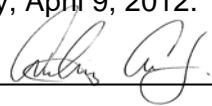
New Business

Commissioner Elliott reported some incidents of racial discrimination at Washington Middle School. The incidents were reports but continue. He asked if staff could possibly provide training to school staff. It was suggested to send a letter to the school district offering their staff ICC training that the City plans regularly. Commissioner Stewart suggested sending a letter directly to each school along with the press releases for Train-the-Trainer training and the ICC training, inviting them to send staff to these training sessions. Subcommittee members will draft a letter when they meet Saturday.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Stewart and second by Commissioner Elliott. All in favor. The meeting of the Human Rights Commission adjourned at 5:50 PM.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 9, 2012.

Minutes approved as submitted: 

Minutes approved as corrected: _____