

**CITY OF DUBUQUE
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
December 8, 2008**

Commissioner Oswald called the meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 4:16 p.m. on Monday, December 8, 2008, in Conference Room 2 at the City Hall Annex.

Roll Call:

Present:	Shane Oswald Marcos Rubinstein	Vince Vanden Heuvel Gretel Winterwood Katrina Wilberding
Absent:	Jim Allan Anthony Allen	Colin Scott Char Eddy
Staff:	Kelly Larson Carol Spinoso	Molly Menster

Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion by Commissioner Vanden Heuvel and second by Commissioner Rubinstein, the minutes of November 10, 2008 were unanimously approved as submitted.

Caseload Report

Carol summarized the November Caseload Report. There were forty-five intakes, two new cases filed, ten cases under active investigation, two cases in mediation, one case in administrative law judge review, three cases were closed, and five cases remained in backlog. The case summary details allegations of disability discrimination in the area of employment.

Chairperson's Report

Commissioner Oswald stated that he would be speaking to the Disabled American Vets and Dubuque Evening Lions as part of the Commission's outreach and education efforts.

Director's Report

Written report submitted.

Review of Goals

Goal 1: The DHRC will increase its visibility in the community.

1. Commissioner Oswald will be submitting a human rights related article for City News.
2. Commissioner Oswald will present to the Disabled American Vets and the Dubuque Evening Lions. Commissioner Wilberding will be speaking on disability issues to the Women's Giving Circle, the Rotary, and to 4th grade students at Kennedy Elementary School.
3. Commissioner Rubinstein commented that commissioners sponsored a table at the NAACP Awards Banquet on December 4, 2008, and that he will be meeting with

representatives of the Multicultural Family Resource Center to discuss program planning. Commissioner Wilberding served as commission representative to the Dubuque Disability Advocates in establishing a center for independent living, and has been attending Mobility Matters meetings with Keyline/RTA representatives working on transportation issues.

Goal 2: The DHRC will build awareness and understanding of issues related to race, national origin, sexual orientation, disabilities, and housing.

1. Commissioner Vanden Heuvel reported that the National Origin Subcommittee will be presenting to the Franciscans, Downtown Neighborhood Group, and the United Way. Additionally they will be making contact with area legislators and the Chamber of Commerce.

Molly stated that the next round of speakers training will be held Tuesday, January 6, 2009, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Prescott Neighborhood Resource Center.

Goal 3: The DHRC will increase advocacy efforts by commissioners for protected classes and for issues related to fair housing.

3. Commissioners were asked to bring suggestions for possible meeting locations and times to next month's meeting.

New Business

Commissioners bid farewell and thanked Commissioner Vanden Heuvel for his dedication to the Commission and diligent efforts with the National Origin Subcommittee.

Currently there are three commissioner applications on file with the City Clerk. Appointments to the Commission will be made at the December 15, 2008 City Council meeting. Commissioners were encouraged to continuously seek interested applicants in the event someone would resign. There was also discussion on changing the meeting time so that it is more accommodating to those individuals who work until 5:00.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Rubinstein moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Winterwood seconded. Motion passed by consensus. Meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

The next regular meeting is January 12, 2009.

Minutes approved as submitted: _____

Minutes approved as corrected: _____