

**DUBUQUE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
February 12, 2018**

Commissioner Schiesl called the meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 4:31 p.m. on Monday, February 12, 2017, at the City Hall Annex, 1300 Main Street, Conference Room II, Dubuque, Iowa.

Roll Call:

Present:	Anthony Allen, Chair Adrienne Breitfelder Gerald Hammel	Miquel Jackson Kate Parks Jay Schiesl, Vice Chair
Absent:	Indigo Channing Nicole Borovic	Ashley Melchert
Staff:	Kelly Larson Joie Brooks	Carol Spinoso

Oath of Office

Commissioner Melchert was not present for Oath of Office

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Parks moved to approve the meeting minutes of January 8, 2018. Commissioner Hammel seconded. A correction was noted that the meeting was called to order on December 11, 2017. The correct date should be January 8, 2018. All in favor to approve the January 8, 2018 meeting minutes as corrected.

Caseload Report

The January 2018 caseload report was received and filed.

Chairperson Report

Anthony announced that the MFC will be sponsoring an event as part of Black History Month at 6:00 p.m. on February 27th at the MFC, and he will be presenting on the origin of the NAACP. He will also be presenting at Clarke College on African Americans in the criminal justice system.

Anthony mentioned that a few years back, the DHRC had discussed holding a Community Wide Forum on Racial Relations with the Dubuque Community School Board. He suggested they discuss whether this could be a future DHRC initiative. He also recommended that they consider continuing with publishing the DHRC newsletter that had been published in 2015/2016.

Anthony stated that he will be attending the Equity Summit in Chicago in April as part of the Dubuque Inclusive Dubuque delegation. Kelly added that there are approximately thirteen city staff that will be attending the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) National Convening Conference which is being held prior to the Equity Summit.

Anthony voiced concerns about recent racial incidents in the community. He stated that there was a recent racial incident reported at UD, and that the NAACP has received complaints related to housing issues. The NAACP also received correspondence from an individual voicing concerns about the jail population, which is 35% African American, while the City's entire African American population is less than 4%. This individual stated that blacks are being arrested and detained for longer periods of time than the average citizen for the same crime.

He stated that the Renter's Union and Friends of Fair housing are working together to alleviate some of the housing issue.

Anthony stated that he along with Jay and other city staff will be attending the Des Moines Civil Rights Symposium next month. He will be participating in a panel discussion with Chief Dalsing where the discussion will be on how cities can be more effective in working toward eliminating the communication gap between minorities and the police.

Director Report:

The written report was submitted. Kelly spoke of pending state legislative bills related to charter schools, transgender bathrooms, and sanctuary cities. She will keep commissioners informed as to the status of those bills.

Old Business:

Commissioner Schiesl asked that discussion on the DHRC newsletter be added to the March meeting agenda.

New Business:

Standing Items: Goals

Goal #1: Establish sustainable and consistent equity in the DCSD to live up to the mission and vision statement of the District.

Jay reported that the group has yet to meet with the Inclusive Dubuque Education Committee because of meeting cancelations due to inclement weather.

Discussion ensued related to a survey conducted by Loras College for the Greater Dubuque Development Corporation and the study conducted by the Iowa State University Extension office. Jay asked if it was possible to obtain copies of those studies. Kate and Kelly will attempt to locate and share those studies.

Kelly mentioned that Inclusive Dubuque will be scheduling a March network meeting where the results of that Loras study will be discussed in more detail. She invited commissioners to attend.

Goal #2: Collaborate with the Housing Commission and other partners in the City to make certain we accomplish the following for the benefit of the community.

Review and Update Liaison List: Anthony volunteered to be the liaison to the 4 the People group, and Miquel to the faces & voices working group.

Goal #3: Collaborate in the elimination of barriers in employment to reduce the poverty rate in Dubuque.

It was noted that currently there is a vacancy on the Resilient Community Advisory Commission goals.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Allen moved to adjourn, Commissioner Parks seconded. All in favor. The meeting ended at 5:50 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, March 12, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes approved as submitted: _____

Minutes approved as corrected: _____