

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

Commissioner Schiesl called the meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 4:35 p.m. on Monday, March 12, 2017, at the City Hall Annex, 1300 Main Street, Conference Room II, Dubuque, Iowa.

Roll Call:

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

Oath of Office

Commissioner Melchert was not present for Oath of Office

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Allen, seconded by Parks to approve the meeting minutes of February 12, 2018. All in favor.

Caseload Report

The February 2018 caseload report was received and filed.

Chairperson Report

Commissioner Allen reported that the February 24th Expungement and Employment Barriers Clinic that was organized by Iowa Legal Aid and the Dubuque branch of the NAACP was well attended and very successful. These clinics are being held at other locations throughout the State.

Commissioner Allen stated that he presented on black historical events during the MFC's Black History Month event on February 27th.

Commissioner Allen reported that he, Commissioner Schiesl, and other city staff will be attending the Des Moines Civil Rights Symposium Wednesday, March 14, and that he will be participating on a panel with Anderson Sainci and Chief Dalsing where they will discuss the dynamics of the MOU between the City and NAACP.

Tom LoGuidice and Mary Gitau initiated Partnership for Black History Resources to assist with presentations during Black History Month and throughout the year.

Director Report:

The next quarterly report will be submitted next month.

Kelly Larson shared that there is a bill pending at the state level that would amend the Iowa Civil Rights Act to allow for criminal penalties if an individual is found to be impersonating someone with a disability who needs a service animal.

Old Business:

Commissioner Schiesl recommended that commissioners review the four studies and prepare for discussion at the April meeting. Those studies include: 1) GDDC – Community Perceptions Survey from 2017; 2) ISU – Central Avenue Corridor Study from 2017; 3) U of I – Schools, Neighborhoods, and Student Outcomes from 2013; and 4) U of I – Portrait of Poverty Study from 2012.

Commissioner Parks stated she reviewed the studies and offered to provide summaries prior to the April meeting. She stated that the 2013 University of Iowa education study has been presented to the school district. The study offered recommendations so it was suggested they invite Mae Hingtgen to a meeting to allow further discussion on this particular study, and provide an opportunity for Mae to provide information as to what the district is doing with this information. Commissioner Schiesl will reach out to Mae for follow-up under Goal #1.

Kate stated that she was contacted by a Loras student who is seeking available resources in the area for the Latinx community. Commissioners recommended that she offer the Presentation Lantern Center, LULAC, the Hispanic Ministry, Evelyn Nadeau, and Marcos Rubinstein as resources.

New Business:

Anthony proposed that they invite a student from Hempstead High School to next month's meeting to talk about the "I Read" program she created. Anthony would like to connect with this student and possibly help recruit students into this program.

Relevant to the educational piece, Commissioner Channing detailed involvement with restructuring the teen programing, and invited any commissioner recommendations or guidance in addressing issues. There will be two summer programs offered; one program to help youth with mental health issues, and one for LGBTQ Youth. They have begun program planning for the Better Together LGBTQ Summit that is scheduled for September 22, 2018. The Fine Arts Festival is held in May, and they are seeking youth to display and sell their art work at a booth that has been donated. A subgroup is meeting to work on expanding the I'm A Dubuquer campaign to achieve more buy-in from the community, and to possibly take information into the classrooms. Pride is tentatively scheduled for the first weekend in June.

Taj announced that on April 17th there will be a Know Your Rights & Legal Immigration Clinic to be held at the Cathedral Church from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. He added that the school district is sending nineteen staff members to the 32-hour Developing Equity Framework Workshop that city staff will be presenting this spring.

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.

Commissioner Schiesl reported that the subcommittee presented the report and recommendations to the Inclusive Dubuque Education Group. The group seemed concerned about the information presented, especially with the discrepancies with the minority population in the downtown schools. They were informed that discussions were beginning to take place in the school district related to these issues, and that Mae Hingtgen is part of that group.

Commissioner Breitfelder questioned whether it would be helpful to invite some of the Connection Specialists that have been working in the Title 1 elementary schools, to possibly provide some

insight into those positions. Anthony suggested inviting Chris Singletary, the supervisor of that program, to the May meeting to provide details of that program.

Commissioner Schiesl will reach out to Rick Dickenson to invite him to the July meeting so he can provide an update related to the Central Avenue Corridor initiative.

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.

Commissioners Channing and Parks expressed interest in reviving the Commission's newsletter. Anthony recommended they meet with past commissioner Tom LoGuidice for input since he was the creator of the newsletter. The newsletter was distributed via email to various groups and organizations including local diversity groups. Staff will forward the diversity groups list to commissioners for assistance with updating.

Commissioner Schiesl asked if there were any updates on the Source of Income issue. Kelly recommended that commissioners view the Monday, March 5th Council meeting. During that meeting, staff provided an update on SOI, community members provided input, and Council members had lengthy discussion on that issue. Kelly stated that she is working with Maggie Baker from Loras about possibly having students input and analyze housing data that is being collected.

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

Anthony will speak with Miquel about possibly chairing this goal.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Allen moved to adjourn, Commissioner Channing seconded. All in favor. The meeting ended at 5:58 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, April 9, 2018.

Minutes approved as submitted: _____

Minutes approved as corrected: _____