

**DUBUQUE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES OF  
August 13, 2018**

Commissioner Allen called the meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 4:35 p.m. on Monday, August 13, 2018, at the City Hall Annex, 1300 Main Street, Conference Room II, Dubuque, Iowa.

**Roll Call:**

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

**Approval of Minutes from July 9, 2018:**

Motion by Schiesl, seconded by Hammel to approve the meeting minutes of July 9, 2018. All in favor. All in favor.

**Reports**

**Caseload Report**

The July 2018 caseload report was received and filed.

**Chairperson Report**

Allen spoke with Dan Johnson about obtaining data from the BMC mentoring program.

**Old Business:**

Nancy Bradley and Dave Olson have agreed to facilitate the August 25<sup>th</sup> goal setting session which will held at The Hotel Julien from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**New Business:**

**Discuss League of Iowa Human Rights Agencies Position on Proposed Davenport Ordinance**

Kelly distributed a position statement from the League of Iowa Human Rights Agencies voicing concerns about the Davenport City Council proposing an ordinance change which would replace the current Civil Rights Commission with a new Human and Civil Rights Agency which would be controlled by three members of the Davenport City Council. The effect would be to re-assign the powers and duties that are currently held by a group of seven residents who are appointed by the Mayor and full council, to three elected City Council members. Kelly will inform commissioners of any activity regarding this proposed ordinance.

**Review Studies:**

Commissioner Parks has reached out to an individual who assisted in writing the GDDC Community Perception Study to obtain more data. She is having difficulty interpreting the data the way it was created. Once she receives that information she will proceed with the summarization.

### **Annual Commission Survey**

In an effort to ensure that the Department is providing adequate staff support to the commission, Kelly asked that commissioners complete a survey and optional demographic forms and return them by August 20. This information will be part of the Department's performance measures.

### **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.

Allen stated that Commissioner Melchert has been doing some background work with the School District and will provide information at the next meeting.

Schiesl reported that he spoke with a school board member and made it clear that the commission was disappointed in not being a part of the Equity Committee. This person indicated that they would share this information with Stan. A request was made to have Taj share information from the Equity Committee meetings since he is participating in those meetings. A school board member will be invited to attend the September 10<sup>th</sup> commission meeting, and Stan to the October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Commissioner Schiesl will meet with RRS to rewrite the original report, taking out the recommendations, listing their findings and data, and perhaps focusing on the achievement gaps in the schools, to produce a report more in-line with the Council's goals and initiatives. Commissioners felt it was important to stress the importance of looking at the education and housing pieces as the redevelopment of the True North proceeds.

**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.

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

Commissioner Jackson reported low attendance at the July 18<sup>th</sup> Race Conference planning meeting. It was decided that they will proceed with planning a two-day conference style event in October 2019 at the Grand River Center. They will continue to meet to work to establish a conference format, sponsors, funding, breakout session topics, and finding a fiscal agent.

Jackson is planning to meet with a Circle Initiatives representative to get data on that program and to offer partnership if needed. It was noted that that program will be restructuring with a workforce focus.

### **Adjournment:**

Commissioner Jackson motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Borovic seconded. All in favor. The meeting ended at 5:50 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, September 10.

Minutes approved as submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Minutes approved as corrected: \_\_\_\_\_