

**DUBUQUE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
June 8, 2020**

Commissioner Allen called the virtual meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, June 8, 2020.

Roll Call:

Present:	Anthony Allen Adrienne Breitfelder Michael Durnin Mallory Gardiner	Miquel Jackson Jason Keeler Kathy McCarthy
Absent	Ashley Regan	Gerald Hammel
Staff:	Kelly Larson	Carol Spinoso

Approval of May 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion by McCarthy second by Durnin to approve the meeting minutes of May 11, 2020.
All in favor.

Reports

Caseload Report

The May 2020 Caseload Report was received and filed.

Chairperson's Report

Commissioner Allen expressed his gratitude in the nature of the peaceful local marches and demonstrations that the young people of Dubuque organized. He was pleased to see all the new younger voices in the community pushing for race equality.

Allen attended a virtual Access to Justice meeting. Good things are happening, but COVID-19 has put a hold on the work they are doing in the rural areas. They plan to reconvene in September.

The YMCA is now open, and the group will be meeting to discuss the new design and layout. Steeple Square continues with their restoration.

Director's Report

The Director submitted a written report which included an update on the COVID-19 budget impact and vulnerable populations.

Old Business

New Business

➤ **Discuss George Floyd Killing and Communities' Responses**

Commissioner Jackson is working with the NAACP and community members to plan a series of virtual workshops that will explore issues including social justice, housing, employment, and the underlying issues of inequality. They will reach out to the Chief of Police, City Council, Mayor, and state representatives to begin community dialogue. The Chief indicated that he and his staff would be available to take part in these discussions.

➤ **Discuss Representative Isenhart's Request Regarding State Leaders Initiatives**

The Chair reviewed communication from Representative Isenhart regarding a Plan for a More Perfect Union that was introduced by state lawmakers. Isenhart requests that the Human Rights Commission make a recommendation to the City Council that they adopt these initiatives. Chief Dalsing expressed support of those policies. He asked that Commissioners be patient with the Police Department as they review policy changes from local, state, and federal agencies.

Commissioner Breitfelder asked Chief Dalsing how the Police Department funds are utilized. Chief Dalsing stated that budget information is available as part of the public record. All of the City budgets are available on the City of Dubuque website under Open Budget.

Commissioner McCarthy asked the Chief if his department tracked the use of force, the level of force, and how often it is used in making arrests. He stated they do track those numbers and that there is a permanent record. McCarthy felt that information would be helpful for discussions as they move forward.

Standing Items: Goals

Objective 1: Race in the Heartland Conference – Jackson, Breitfelder, Allen

Commissioner Jackson stated the committee approved a virtual conference for this year and that they are currently researching an appropriate platform. They continue to work on speaker confirmation.

Kelly stated that there is funding for the conference that has been allocated through Housing's Community Development Block Grant funds. She will contact Housing to check the status of those funds.

Objective 2: Education – Durnin, Breitfelder, Gardiner

The group reached out to some of the school board members about upcoming meetings. They also spoke with the Equity Coordinator about attending either the July or August Commission meeting to review statistics from the State of Iowa and how that compares to the City of Dubuque as far as graduation rates.

Objective 3: Housing – McCarthy, Keeler, Allen

Commissioner Keeler indicated that the group did not meet last month. He suggested the Commission have a discussion to determine whether they want to move forward with the Housing Fair at this time. Or as an alternative, to possibly make that part of the virtual Race Conference.

Objective 4: Employment – Breitfelder, Hammel, Regan

Commissioner Breifelder stated there is no update at this time. They are looking at what items to focus on due to COVID-19. The group will be looking at the timelines to determine what needs to be reassessed or reprioritized due to current events.

Breitfelder encouraged each subcommittee to meet to review their goals and make revisions and reprioritize based on current community needs around education, housing and employment, and bring those ideas to the full Commission for discussion.

Adjournment:

Commissioner McCarthy motioned and Commissioner Durnin seconded to adjourn. All in favor. The meeting ended at 5:25 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, July 13, 2020.

Minutes approved as submitted: _____

Minutes approved as corrected: _____