

**DUBUQUE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES OF  
February 13, 2017**

Commissioner Allen called the meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 4:39 p.m. on Monday, February 13, 2017, at the City Hall Annex, 1300 Main Street, Conference Room II, Dubuque, Iowa.

**Roll Call:**

Present:	Sarah Fisher Miquel Jackson, Vice-Chair Anthony Allen, Chair Kate Parks	Jay Schiesl Adrienne Scott Shirley Templeton Vaughn (4:55)
Absent:	Fred Davis	
Staff:	Kelly Larson	Taj Suleyman

**Oath of Office:**

Administered to Commissioners Jackson and Schiesl.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Commissioner Schiesl moved to approve the meeting minutes of January 9, 2017. Commissioner Jackson seconded. All in favor of approving the minutes as submitted.

**Reports:**

Caseload Report

The January 2017 Caseload Report was received and filed.

Chairperson Report

Anthony will be meeting with Legal Aid staff regarding the Access to Justice group he serves on to provide legal info and referrals for community members.

NAACP – They are working with the City as part of the Days of Caring event to install smoke alarms. A Friends of Fair Housing meeting is scheduled for later this week, and anyone is welcome to attend. There is a Generation to Generation event on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Dubuque Museum of Art from noon to 5:00 p.m. Commissioner Jackson is the contact for that event.

DCPRC – Looking at scheduling some training due to concerns related to the last hearing not being run appropriately. They will be meeting with the Dubuque County Supervisors to establish a MOU.

Inclusive Dubuque will be holding a community conversation at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday at Steeple Square.

Last week Anthony spoke to individuals on Source of Income at Clarke University.

Director's Report

A written quarterly report was submitted. In light of the national events Kelly submitted information related to public outreach for immigrant and refugee communities that provide referral resources. She also shared the fair housing testing results that went to the City Council.

**Old Business:**

No old business

**Discuss Action Regarding League of Iowa Civil Rights Agencies Position on House Study**

**Bill 92**

The League of Iowa Civil and Human Rights Agencies is calling a conference call meeting regarding House Study Bill 92 to discuss whether the League wants to take a position. Kelly asked commissioners to review, discuss and vote on the issue. The Bill would prevent cities and counties from going beyond state law on employment conditions such as minimum wage, hiring practices and civil rights protections. Commissioner Parks moved to oppose House Study Bill 92. Commissioner Templeton Vaughn seconded. Roll call vote:

Sarah Fisher	Yes	Jay Schiesl	Yes
Miquel Jackson	Yes	Adrienne Scott	Yes
Anthony Allen	Yes	Shirley Templeton Vaughn	Yes
Kate Parks	Yes		

Motion carries by a vote of 7-0.

**New Business:**

Nino Erba addressed the Commission seeking support banning gay conversion therapy in Dubuque, and requested that a Human Rights Ordinance be presented to the City Council. Nino reported that there is overwhelming evidence that conversion therapy does not work and causes harm. Numerous cities and states have passed laws banning conversion therapy based on sexual orientation and some on gender identity. He had suggested using the Iowa State Consumer Protection Law approach. He would want the ordinance to cover sexual orientation and gender identity as well as banning advertising. He shared data and information with commissioners and provided other on-line resources. Commissioner Allen noted this could fit within the Commission's Goal #1.

Commissioners would like to have time to review the materials submitted. Commissioner Templeton Vaughn moved to obtain copies of the research and proposal from Mr. Erba so the Human Rights Commission can be informed and assist Mr. Erba with formalizing and supporting as needed. Commissioner Scott seconded. Roll call vote:

Sarah Fisher	No	Jay Schiesl	Yes
Miquel Jackson	No	Adrienne Scott	No
Anthony Allen	Absent	Shirley Templeton Vaughn	Yes
Kate Parks	No		

Motion failed by a vote of 4-2.

Commissioner Fisher moved that the Commission propose an ordinance to the City Council banning gay conversion therapy working with Nino Erba. Commissioner Scott seconded.

Sarah Fisher	Yes	Jay Schiesl	No
Miquel Jackson	Yes	Adrienne Scott	Yes
Anthony Allen	Absent	Shirley Templeton Vaughn	Yes
Kate Parks	Yes		

Motion carries by a vote of 5-1. Further discussion will ensue at the March meeting.

**Standing Items: Goals**

**Goal 1:** Research, illuminate and eliminate disparities and increase cultural competencies in education, housing, and employment. Initiatives identified.

Dean Boles presented information and data on poverty in Dubuque that he obtained from the US Census Bureau, and data related to reading proficiency from the Iowa Department of Education. He noted that the poverty rate has increased from 10.6 in 2009 to 16.2 in 2015. In summary, the rapid change in the number of residents below the poverty threshold is straining Dubuque's social safety net and will create economic and social headwinds for the community.

**Goal 2:** Continue to improve communication within and among community groups to improve human rights initiatives.

Tanya Engling, who is a sexual assault advocate for the marginalized at Riverview Center, provided information about the services offered through the Riverview Center. They provide 24-hour crisis intervention, medical and legal advocacy, therapy and education and outreach on violence prevention.

**Adjournment:**

Commissioner Scott moved and Commissioner Templeton Vaughn seconded to adjourn. The Commission adjourned at 6:50 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 13, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

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

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