

**DUBUQUE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
April 10, 2017**

Commissioner Allen called the meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 4:31 p.m. on Monday, April 10, 2017, at the City Hall Annex, 1300 Main Street, Conference Room II, Dubuque, Iowa.

Roll Call:

Present:	Anthony Allen, Chair Indigo Channing Fred Davis Kate Parks	Jay Schiesl, Vice Chair Adrienne Scott Shirley Templeton Vaughn
Absent:	Miquel Jackson	Sarah Fisher
Staff:	Kelly Larson	Carol Spinoso

Reflections: Upcoming Events:

Central Avenue Corridor Initiative: The City launched this initiative to engage residents to plan for revitalization of the Central Avenue Corridor from 15th to 22nd Street. They are working with the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach to assist with outreach and community engagement efforts. There was a concern about the TH article and mention of eliminating slum and blight, and transforming rental units into single family homes, especially when they are trying to address housing issues in this area.

Imagine Dubuque is hosting a Social and Cultural Vibrancy Workshop at The Smokestack on April 19th at 6:00 p.m. The interactive sessions will focus on community knowledge, green buildings, healthy local food and health and safety.

The Minority Unemployment and Outreach Committee is hosting a 90-minute listening tour at Steeple Square, April 20 at 5:00 p.m. Information gained from this conversation will help the committee align their strategic plan.

Inclusive Dubuque is cosponsoring a 2-day equity learning opportunity facilitated by Dr. Jennifer Harvey on April 28 and 29. Downtown Dubuque Christian Outreach will be sponsoring the showing of the documentary "I am Not Your Negro" at Mindframe, April 27 at 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

The next Inclusive Dubuque Community Conversation will be held May 2 at 6:00 p.m. at Steeple Square.

Commissioner Davis has joined a YMCA funded Eliminating Racism and Social Justice Task Force. They are currently in the planning stages and will be looking at dialogue from Inclusive Dubuque prior to planning action steps.

The Pride Festival/Picnic is scheduled for June 11, 2017. More information will be provided as the event nears.

The Juneteenth Celebration is scheduled for June 17, 2017 at Comiskey Park.

The Better Together Dubuque will be held in September.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Schiesl moved to approve the meeting minutes of March 13, 2017. Commissioner Davis seconded. All in favor of approving the minutes as submitted. Commissioners Parks and Channing abstained.

Reports:

Caseload Report

The March 2017 Caseload Report was received and filed.

Chairperson Report

The Iowa Black Caucus will be holding a town hall meeting at the Dream Center April 15th.

DCPRC – Anthony attended a meeting with signatories. They discussed training for the DCPRC, disciplinary precautions in relation to both committee members and Police staff, and training for city management staff because of the addendum to the MOU which added the Community City Relations Committee.

NAACP – The Bowl-A-Thon is scheduled for April 22 from 12 – 4 p.m. at Cherry Lanes. Registration is available on the NAACP facebook page.

Anthony participated on a panel discussion at Mindframe following the showing of the movie "13." He also participated in the Fountain of Youth event. He met with David, the Director of the Dubuque Art Museum, to discuss the possibility of partnering to bring a nation-wide event entitled "Question Bridge" here to Dubuque. He and David also had a conversation about having Iowa Humanities come to Dubuque to give a presentation to Police and the minority community on how to better dialogue about racial relations between citizens and law enforcement authorities.

Iowa Access to Justice – Anthony serves on the Public Outreach Programming Committee. They are looking at enhancing resources at public libraries, and are looking into hosting expungement events throughout Iowa.

The Tri-State Islamic Center invites the community to attend the grand opening of the Mosque, Saturday, April 22 from 3 – 5 p.m. at 4980 Radford Ct, Dubuque.

Director's Report

Written quarterly report was received and filed. The summary of resident responses to the Civil Engagement Survey was distributed. They will be moving forward with scheduling training based on those survey results.

Old Business:

New Business:

Set Date for Goal Setting

Goal setting is scheduled for Saturday, August 19 from 9:00 to 1:00 p.m. Staff will confirm a facilitator and location.

Standing Items: Goals

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

Commissioner Scheisl reported that the subcommittee is trying to determine whether a shared equity coordinator would be of value to the DCSD and the City. Shirley Horstman

and Mae Hingtgen from the School District were present at the last meeting and indicated that the Human Resources Director and Mae share equity responsibilities in the District. The five schools in downtown Dubuque; Audubon, Prescott, Marshall, Fulton, and Lincoln, are some of the lowest ranked schools in the State of Iowa relating to reading scores. In addition to that, there are high percentages of students who are eligible for free and reduced price lunches in those schools. The representatives from the school district felt they just didn't have enough resources to deal with all of the other issues that influence students' lives. AmeriCorp workers are working to provide mentoring and reading with kids, and the St. Mark Center, the Dream Center, BMC, and other groups are working in this area as well.

From the housing side, the downtown area is where the affordable housing is centralized, and where families are most in need, and this needs to be addressed. Commissioner Schiesl will advocate for this particular goal to continue on to the next year. At next month's meeting, the group will be reviewing various job descriptions looking at what equity coordinator positions look like in other areas of the country.

Commissioner Schiesl reported that he had attended the Inclusive Dubuque Education Working Group meeting, and this group is focusing on bringing some multicultural training to Dubuque to train 5 or 6 people, so that they can provide training to community members.

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

Commissioner Channing reviewed the meeting minutes from the March 29th subcommittee meeting. As part of the subcommittee, Rachel Ferraro was present to report on her findings after meeting with the Police Department as well as leaders in the religious communities as to whether gay conversion therapy is an issue in the community. She stated that there is no evidence that this is occurring in our community through those groups. Data is needed for the Dubuque community, so it was suggested that subcommittee members contact the GSA groups and social workers in the schools, and the LGBTQ groups that meets at the MFC. Commissioner Channing will work with Nino in creating a needs assessment survey that they can distribute at the Pride picnic in June.

Shirley announced that Resource Unit is holding their Outstanding Volunteer Awards night on June 1. She asked for commissioner support in hosting a DHRC information booth. Shirley will call a meeting for this group to discuss details.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Templeton Vaughn moved and Commissioner Parks seconded to adjourn. The Commission adjourned at 6:05 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 8, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes approved as submitted: _____ 

Minutes approved as corrected: _____ 