

**DUBUQUE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
SEPTEMBER 11, 2017**

Commissioner Allen called the meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 4:33 p.m. on Monday, September 11, 2017, at the City Hall Annex, 1300 Main Street, Conference Room II, Dubuque, Iowa.

Roll Call:

Present:	Anthony Allen, Chair Adrienne Breitfelder Miquel Jackson	Kate Parks Jay Schiesl, Vice Chair
Absent:	Indigo Channing	Fred Davis
Staff:	Kelly Larson	Carol Spinoso

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Schiesl moved to approve the meeting minutes of August 14 & 24, 2017. Commissioner Parks seconded. All in favor.

Caseload Report

No report available.

Chairperson Report

Anthony stated that he, along with the Black Men Coalition, were recipients of the Governor's Volunteer Award.

The NAACP is working strategically with housing issues, and will be presenting at the Take Action event on September 16th that is sponsored by the Dubuque Democratic Socialists.

There will be a citizen's debate in relation to the upcoming council elections at the Dream Center.

Director's Report:

Written reports are provided quarterly.

Standing Items: Goals

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

Dan LoBianco, Rick Dickinson and Maurice Jones were invited to provide information on the plans to revitalize the city's North End. It was stated that their efforts will focus on making the area a safe place to live for all, regardless of economic status. They intend to eliminate slum and blight and promote home ownership.

Commission members voiced concern about these efforts leading to gentrification. Dickinson stressed that their efforts are focused on rehabbing substandard rental housing. They will be looking at the worst properties that are unsafe, have repeated police calls that have a negative impact on the neighborhood. It was noted that funds available for Dubuque's neighborhood revitalization efforts must be targeted to provide housing to low and moderate income households. The goal is to create a place where people are welcome, they feel safe, and it's an affordable place to live.

For this to be successful, it must be a community orientated process. They do plan to reach out to all stakeholders in that community to obtain input about the plans for their community and access the needed services and any concerns. The people who live there need to be self-determining as to what they want their community to look like.

Another component is to encourage employability. The GDDC, DBQ Works, and NICC, using state and federal dollars, are collaborating to provide more funding to Opportunity Dubuque to help eliminate the financial barriers to assist people to receive training for skills for better paying jobs. They also feel it's essential to involve administrators, faculty, and students in higher education into the mission of transforming these neighborhoods.

Commissioners would like to invite the three back as the project continues.

Due to several meeting commitments, Commissioner Parks moved to table all New Business agenda items to the Monday, September 25th meeting. Commissioner Schiesl seconded.

Anthony Allen	Yes	Kate Parks	Yes
Adrienne Breitfelder	Yes	Jay Schiesl	Yes
Miquel Jackson	Yes		

Motion carries.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Schiesl moved and Commissioner Jackson seconded to adjourn. The Commission adjourned at 5:55 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, October 9, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes approved as submitted: 

Minutes approved as corrected: _____