

**DUBUQUE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
October 9, 2017**

Commissioner Allen called the meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 4:37 p.m. on Monday, October 9, 2017, at the City Hall Annex, 1300 Main Street, Conference Room II, Dubuque, Iowa.

Roll Call:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Parks moved to approve the meeting minutes of September 11 & 25, 2017. Commissioner Schiesl seconded. All in favor. Commissioner Channing abstained.

Caseload Report

The August and September 2017 caseload reports were received and filed.

Chairperson Report

Anthony will forward the report on the work on of the Access to Justice Committee which focuses on restorative justice practices.

NAACP activities include:

The NAACP Freedom Fund will be held on November 4th at the Diamond Jo.

The NAACP is sponsoring a citizen's debate in relation to the upcoming council elections at the Dream Center on October 17 which will be similar to a town hall type event.

There is statewide NAACP Summit to address racial disparities in Iowa's criminal justice system in Des Moines on October 10th.

Friends of Fair Housing continues to meet monthly with the City Manager and Housing staff to offer input as to the rebranding of the housing program.

The NAACP is working with the Dubuque Democratic Socialists in helping to create a renter's association.

Steeple Square is continuing to grow and will be holding their strategic planning meetings over the next few months.

Anthony will send the letter he drafted requesting a replacement for Commissioner Davis to Carol to forward on to the City Council.

Director Report:

The written quarterly report will be provided next month.

Discuss Police Department Facebook Post

A post was made to the Police Department's Facebook page seeking information about a group of children that may have been involved in damaging sidewalks along the Bee Branch Creek along with photos of the children. Commissioner Parks shared concerns over comments made on a Police Department social media post that were offensive and racist.

Chief Dalsing stated the posts are used to gather information from the public to help solve cases. He noted that the Facebook post did lead to the alleged perpetrators being identified. Posting photos is a last resort that investigators use if they are unable to identify the people involved. He added that two other Police Department staff attempt to monitor the Facebook page and delete offensive comments, but are unable to monitor the page at all time, and that usually they not receive as many offensive comments.

Citizens are asked to provide information through private messaging or by calling the Police Department. Staff will post a statement on the page as a reminder that offensive comments will not be tolerated.

Discuss Editorial Piece for TH

Three statements were received. Commissioner Allen will combine and send to all to review.

FY19 Budget Requests

Nothing identified at this time.

Standing Items: Goals

Goal #1: Establish sustainable and consistent equity in the DCSD in order to live up to the mission and vision statement of the District.

Subcommittee member RRS stated that the subcommittee was formed in October 2016, with the goal of gathering information and preparing a report on their findings, which includes suggestions and recommendations for improving racial equity in the City of Dubuque and Dubuque Community School Board. Commissioner Schiesl reiterated that they are not being critical towards anyone, they are simply reporting their findings. They will incorporate any suggestions made by Commissioners prior to presenting the report to the NAACP on Wednesday.

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.

An action item was added to Initiative #3 – Work to support and provide input to groups organizing the Renter's Association.

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

Action item added to Initiative #2 – To collaborate with the Second Chance Committee, Circles, and the Fountain of Youth.

Action items added to Initiative #3 – To obtain and review the goals of the Resilient Community Advisory Committee and provide updates.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Parks moved to adjourn. Commissioner Schiesl seconded. All in favor. The meeting ended at 6:42 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, November 13, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes approved as submitted: _____

Minutes approved as corrected: _____