

**DUBUQUE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES OF  
April 8, 2019**

Commissioner Allen called the meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 4:36 p.m. on Monday, April 8, 2019, at the Jule Operations & Training Center, 949 Kerper Blvd., Dubuque, Iowa.

**Roll Call:**

Present:	Anthony Allen, Chair Nicole Borovic Adrienne Breitfelder Gerald Hammel	Miquel Jackson Erin Muenster Kate Parks Jay Schiesl, Vice Chair
Absent:	Ashley Melchert	
Staff:	Kelly Larson	Carol Spinoso

**Approval of Minutes from March 11, 2019**

Motion by Parks, second by Hammel to approve the meeting minutes of March 11, 2019. Two typos were noted in paragraph 3 under Goal #3: Employment. All in favor of accepting the meeting minutes as amended.

**Reports**

**Caseload Report**

The March 2019 caseload report was received and filed.

**Chairperson's Report**

Presented information on the Human Rights Commission to 5<sup>th</sup> grade boy scouts. They were very attentive and asked many questions. A question raised was whether an individual could serve on a board or commission if they did not have a permanent address. Anthony will follow up with this group.

The Chair, along with Commissioners Jackson and Parks attended the Civil Rights Symposium in Des Moines. This year's theme was Move Passion to Progress that offered four tracks addressing progress on issues related to economic, judicial, social and political growth.

The Chair announced that Dubuque received a grant through the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque who is partnering with other sponsors to launch a local college access network.

**Director's Report**

Kelly reported that the Iowa League of Civil and Human Rights Agencies voted in favor of filing the brief they discussed at last month's meeting. They will wait to see what happens.

**Old Business**

**New Business**

**Complete Worksheets for City Council Goal Setting**

Commissioners listed the following accomplishments/impacts for 2018-2019:

**Success:** Influenced the creation of an equity coordinator position with the DCSD, as well as obtaining positions on their equity advisory group.

**Impact:** Ongoing dialogue amongst various groups concerned about advancing equity

**Success:** Successful goal setting.

**Impact:** Clear goals and making progress on them monthly

**Success:** Made clear to GDDC and Main Street that we expect accountability regarding resident displacement.

**Impact:** Ongoing dialogue and active engagement in related community forums by Individual commissioners.

**Success:** Coordinated meeting after a hate incident at a local rental property with a diverse representation and positive dialogue at the meeting.

**Impact:** Idea for hosting a race conference and several attendees from the original meeting are assisting with planning the conference.

The Commission plans to address the following projects in 2018-2019:

1. Race conference is being planned and will be held in October.
2. Meeting with various school/parent groups regarding education equity.
3. Hosting two forums on source of income protections with Legal Aid, Friends of Fair Housing, and the Dubuque Renter's Association.

Commissioner Hammel moved to approve and submit the items identified on the worksheet to the City Council. Commissioner Borovic seconded. All in favor.

#### **Discuss and Vote on Removal of Commissioner Melchert based on Attendance**

The Chair announced that Commissioner Melchert submitted her resignation today. He reiterated the importance of notifying staff when unable to attend meetings, and to submit any material that they have been working on for commission discussion.

#### **Standing Items: Goals**

##### **Goal #1: Education**

Commissioner Allen attended a meeting where discussion was held on the structure of the Dubuque Community School Board. A suggestion was made about establishing wards. He will continue to provide updates.

##### **Goal #2: Housing**

Staff will invite Alexis Steger, Housing and Community Development Director, and Teresa Bassler, Assisted Housing Supervisor, when new data from the rental licenses is available. Commissioners were interested in knowing the number of landlords who are willing and unwilling to accept vouchers, maps of where voucher recipients are living, and a list of landlords who consistently accept voucher, and whether they accept in all of their units.

Ed Raber will be invited to the May meeting to provide an update on the progress of the True North initiative.

##### **Goal #3: Employment**

Commissioner Borovic reported that she has reached out to Kristin Dietzel for information on local training and skill building opportunities. Kristin is willing to come to the July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting to provide information. She will also reach out to the NICC staff that works with the Career Pathways program, and have that individual attend the July meeting as well.

Housing staff Hollie Ohnesorge and Dawn DeMaio will attend the June 10 meeting to provide information on the Gaining Opportunity Program.

Related to the childcare accessibility piece, Commissioner Breitfelder reported that Councilmembers Parks and Rios have agreed to attend the May 13<sup>th</sup> commission meeting.

**Adjournment:**

Commissioner Parks motioned and Commissioner Schiesl seconded to adjourn. All in favor. The meeting ended at 5:51 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, May 13, 2019, at the Jule Operations & Training Center, 949 Kerper Blvd.

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

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