

**DUBUQUE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
August 10, 2020**

Commissioner Breitfelder called the virtual meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 4:34 p.m. on Monday, August 10, 2020.

Roll Call:

Present:	Adrienne Breitfelder Michael Durnin Mallory Gardiner Jerry Hammel	Kathy McCarthy Jason Keeler
Absent	Miquel Jackson Anthony Allen	Ashley Regan
Staff:	Kelly Larson	Carol Spinoso

Approval of July 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Hammel second by Durnin to approve the meeting minutes of July 13, 2020.
All in favor. Breitfelder abstained.

Reports

Caseload Report

The July 2020 Caseload Report was received and filed.

Chairperson's Report

Director's Report

Written quarterly report received and filed.

Old Business

Discuss Key City Pride's Keychella Event

Cory Young and Rio Suave from Key City Pride provided program information on the September 4 -6, 2020 Keychella Festival. The Commission at their July 13th meeting approved supporting Keychella by hosting an educational booth. The September 5th event runs from noon to 10:00 p.m. at Comiskey. Hammel moved to donate \$100 for the Keychella event. Durnin seconded. Roll call:

Durnin	Yes	Keeler	Yes
Gardiner	Yes	McCarthy	Yes
Hammel	Yes	Breitfelder	Yes

Motion carried. Keeler will pick up the brochures on the Friday before, and he volunteered to staff the booth from noon to 2:00 p.m., Hammel 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., Durnin from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., and Breitfelder from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Gardiner and McCarthy would be available to help with set-up prior to the event.

Discuss additional goals related to recent community momentum on diversity and inclusion initiatives

Commissioner Breitfelder conveyed that the City Council was currently meeting to establish their goals for 2020-2022 and recommended tabling this item until the September meeting so that she can review the Council's goals once published. Her intention is to include any Council goals related to diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives into this new goal to better align their goals.

Discuss details from Linn County's COVID-19 virtual town hall meeting and possibility of hosting a session in Dubuque

Breitfelder recapped Ed Raber's contact with staff where he provided information on Linn County's Virtual Town Hall Meeting and inquired as to whether the DHRC would be interested in hosting this type of event.

Commissioners showed interest and suggested limiting discussions to two topics. There was concern that a virtual meeting may limit participation. Breitfelder suggested a separate meeting with Ed Raber to get additional input and to establish a planning committee. Durnin motioned to move forward with the Virtual Town Hall initiative in conjunction with Ed Raber and other entities in the City of Dubuque. Second by Gardiner. Roll Call:

Durnin	Yes	Keeler	Yes
Gardiner	Yes	McCarthy	Yes
Hammel	Yes	Breitfelder	Yes

All in favor. Breitfelder will contact Ed Raber to get input.

New Business

Report on COVID-19

Kelly provided COVID statistics in her Director's Report.

Discuss International Day of Peace Partnership

The annual International Day of Peace Festival is September 21. The Day of Peace Partnership Committee is seeking partnerships with various organizations. Durnin moved to be included in the list of partners with the International Day of Peace. Hammel seconded. Roll call:

Durnin	Yes	Keeler	Yes
Gardiner	Yes	McCarthy	Yes
Hammel	Yes	Breitfelder	Yes

Motion carries.

Review BLM Work Session Information and Make Recommendations to City Council

Commissioners discussed information presented by various groups at the Black Lives Matter City Council Work Session. Breitfelder asked for any recommendations they could present to the City Council for consideration as they enter their goal setting.

Breitfelder recommended the adoption of a source of income ordinance, offering Commission assistance in expanding educating landlords and tenants on the advantages of renting to HCV recipients. She also recommended to increase the powers of the Dubuque Community Police Relations Committee to establish police accountability. This issue was recommended to Council by NAACP at the work session.

Consensus was to recommend expanding education to landlords on the advantages of renting to HCV participants, and to also recommend establishing a quarterly review process for examining eviction data. Additionally, they want to convey to the Council that the Commission is available to serve as a resource to them.

Keeler moved to ask the Director to draft a letter to the City Council supporting our recommendations on establishing a quarterly review process for examining eviction data, and expanding education of landlords on the advantages of renting to HCV participants and offering Commission partnership. Hammel seconded. Roll call:

Durnin	Yes	Keeler	Yes
Gardiner	Yes	McCarthy	Yes
Hammel	Yes	Breitfelder	Yes

Motion carried.

Standing Items: Goals

Objective 1: Race in the Heartland Conference – Jackson, Breitfelder, Allen

Objective 2: Education – Durnin, Breitfelder, Gardiner

The group has been meeting to plan the initial research on their objectives and action items. Breitfelder shared a chart showing percentages of students who will receive instruction exclusively at home. As the year goes on, they will evaluate how students successfully do with remote learning versus those who chose the hybrid approach. Gardiner is working with Marlynn Larron, a DCSD teacher who is involved with the Marshallese community and the Islander Club at Senior. For educational purposes, it was suggested Marlynn be invited to the September meeting to offer resources and for her to share any concerns or questions that she may have.

Objective 3: Housing – McCarthy, Keeler, Allen

Objective 4: Employment – Breitfelder, Hammel, Regan

The group is working on the initial data gathering and are interested in data specifically related to the Marshallese community. They are thinking about conducting research as to where there are large Marshallese populations in other parts of the county to see what the employment rates are and to get a better understanding of what programs or opportunities are offered in those communities. They are also looking at the Opportunity Dubuque program and will be reaching out to GDDC to get a better understanding of how they went about engaging the minority communities to increase participation in that program.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Hammel motioned and Commissioner McCarthy seconded to adjourn. All in favor. The meeting ended at 6:22 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, September 14, 2020.

Minutes approved as submitted: _____

Minutes approved as corrected: _____