

DUBUQUE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

December 13, 2021

DATE: Monday, December 13, 2021

TIME: 4:30 PM

LOCATION: Ruby Sutton Building, 1157 Central Avenue, Dubuque, IA 52001

Commissioners Present: Carla Anderson (vice-chair), Michael Durnin, Mallory Gardiner (chair), Jake Kurczek, Kathy McCarthy

Commissioners Absent: Klanea Evans, Pamela Birch, Taylor Merfeld

Staff Present: Collins Eboh, Carol Spinoso

Commissioner Gardiner called the meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 4:45 p.m.

Approval of November 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Anderson second by Durnin to approve the meeting minutes of November 8, 2021 as submitted. All in favor.

Reports

Caseload Report

The November 2021 Caseload Report was received and filed.

Chairperson's Report

Nothing new to report

Interim Director's Report

Collins reported that he received communication from the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission stating that they are being audited by HUD, and are seeking a letter of support related to their fair housing practices. Questions were raised as to whether that letter should come from Housing. Collins stated that he will contact them for more clarification as to their request.

Old Business:

New Business:

Commissioner Attendance

The Chair commented that the lack of attendance at meetings is concerning and will need to be addressed. She solicited input from commissioners on how to approach this issue. It was recommended that they review the Ordinance related to absences and Contact those that not been in compliance reminding them of their responsibility to attend meetings. Staff will compile an attendance list for the past year, pull together other documentation related to past attendance issues and convey to the chair. After

review of that information, the Chair will prepare a letter to send to those not in compliance with the attendance policies.

Appoint Human Rights Commission Representative to DCPRC

Jackson, who served as primary Human Rights Commission representative, has resigned, and Anderson is currently serving as the alternate Human Rights representative. Durnin moved to nominate Anderson to serve as the primary representative and recommended that they wait to appoint an alternate. Durnin stated that the group is looking to reduce the number of alternates on that committee. McCarthy seconded. Anderson accepted the nomination to the primary seat. All in favor of appointing Anderson as primary DHRC representative.

Standing Items – Goals 2021-2022:

Goal: To build a greater community awareness and connections to advance Human Rights in Dubuque.

1. **Outreach and Advocacy Efforts** – *Gardiner, Kurczek, Jackson
Gardiner reported that they are working on preparing the Civil Leader students to begin work on the housing projects in the spring. Kurczek stated three students who will be coordinating the different groups were trained on group leadership and management, as well as how to stay on task and how to address any problems that may arise.
2. **Inequities in Housing, Homelessness, and Food Access** – *Anderson, McCarthy, Birch
This group is waiting to see where they can assist when the students get started on the three housing projects. Gardiner and Kurczek will keep them informed.
3. **Criminal Justice** – *Merfeld, Durnin
Durnin reported that he continues to attend the Fountain of Youth Real Talk sessions to listen to the needs of participants. He stated that housing is a real concern for many of those participants due to their criminal history. Possibly this topic could be something the Civil Leader students can research. It was asked whether there were stats available on outcomes of participants completing that program. Durnin was not aware but would inquire.

Adjournment:

Anderson motioned and Kurczek seconded to adjourn. All in favor. The meeting ended at 5:25 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, January 10, 2022.

Minutes approved as submitted: _____

Minutes approved as corrected: _____