

EQUITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 14, 2022

DATE: Monday, February 14, 2022

TIME: 4:30 PM

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

Commissioners Present: Michael Durnin, Mallory Gardiner (chair), Jake Kurczek, Kathy McCarthy, Klanea Evans, Maitha Jolet, Dereka Williams

Commissioners Absent: Taylor Merfeld, Danita Grant

Staff Present: Collins Eboh, Carol Spinoso

Commissioner Gardiner called the meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 4:37 p.m.

Oath of Office

The Chair administered the Oath of Office to commissioners Kurczek, Jolet, and Williams

Approval of December 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Durnin, second by Kurczek to approve the meeting minutes of December 13, 2021 as submitted. All in favor.

Reports

Caseload Report

The December 2021 and January 2022 Caseload Reports were received and filed.

Collins commented that he has arranged a time for staff to meet with Shante Weston, Civil Rights Investigator, to review the investigative process.

Chairperson's Report

Orientation for the Civil Leaders students who are working with the commission on the housing goals begins tomorrow.

Interim Director's Report

Collins will be in contact with new commissioners to schedule a time for an orientation session.

Collins met with the Dubuque County Disabilities Council. The group is actively seeking change in policy and practices to help create more inclusive opportunities and to breakdown any barriers. The group is developing a needs survey to understand what barriers exist in accessing employment, transportation, or education. He will speak on this again as the survey is completed.

Old Business:

New Business:

Appoint DHRC Representative to DCPRC

Commissioner Durnin provided a brief overview of the Dubuque Community Police Relations Committee (DCPRC) for new commissioners. Commissioner McCarthy nominated Dereka Williams to serve as the commission's representative, second by Durnin. Roll call vote:

Durnin	Yes	Jolet	Yes
Evans	Yes	Kurczek	Yes
Gardiner	Yes	McCarthy	Yes
Williams	Yes		

Motion carries. Williams will serve as the primary representative to the DCPRC.

Select Date for Goal Setting Session

The goal setting session for commission's 2022-2023 goal setting session was scheduled for Saturday, March 26, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Staff will check with David Olson and Nancy Bradley as to their availability to facilitate the session. Art Roche, Kelly Malloney, Rachel Daack, and Erica Haugen were mentioned as alternate facilitators.

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
- 2. Inequities in Housing, Homelessness, and Food Access** – *Anderson, McCarthy, Birch
Kurczek provided background on the Loras Civil Leaders Program for new commissioners. These students will perform community work related to the three housing initiatives.
- 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. The SRO group continues to meet, and they are developing a survey. Focus groups will be formed to address issues based on the results of those surveys.

Adjournment:

McCarthy motioned and Williams seconded to adjourn. All in favor. The meeting ended at 5:45 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, March 14, 2022.

Minutes approved as submitted: _____

Minutes approved as corrected: _____