

**CITY OF DUBUQUE  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES OF  
June 18, 2012**

Commissioner Allen called the meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 4:41 p.m. on Monday, June 18, 2012, at the City Hall Annex, 1300 Main Street, Conference Room II Dubuque, Iowa.

**Roll Call:**

Present:	Anthony Allen, Chair Mike Elliott Kurt Hansen	Miquel Jackson RRS Stewart, Vice-Chair
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Absent:	Andrea Beacham Mitzi Krey	Andrea Helgager Judie Root
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Staff:	Carol Spinoso	Kelly Larson
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**Administer Oath of Office**

Commissioner Helgager was not present.

**Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Hansen moved to approve the Human Rights Commission meeting minutes of May 14, 2012. Commissioner Jackson seconded. All in favor of approving the meeting minutes as submitted.

**Reports**

**Caseload Report**

The written report for May 2012 was submitted.

**Chairperson's Report**

Commissioner Allen reported that he has had discussions with individuals involved with the Dubuque Independent Football League in an attempt to motivate collaboration with the community barbeque.

**Director's Report**

Kelly reported that UW Platteville is taking registrations for the Midwest Culturally Inclusive Conference to be held September 7 & 8. Commissioners should contact Carol by July 27 if interested in attending.

**Old Business**

**Review and discuss current goals and collaborations**

Goal #1: Increase opportunities for citizen dialogue and education around human rights issues. Commissioners Hansen, Elliott, Jackson, Allen, Krey.

Commissioner Jackson reported that they are making good progress in planning for the Dubuque Community Barbeque planned for August 12<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM at Flora Park. At this time co-sponsors include the NAACP, Pi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Black Men Coalition and the Dubuque Independent Football League. They are seeking additional sponsors. Activities will include softball, volleyball and bean bag

tournaments, along with other competitions and races. The fees collected for the activities will be put toward the Ruby Sutton Scholarship Fund. They will meet with Sugar Ray to get a budget estimate and subcommittee members to finalize other details. The next meeting is Friday, June 22 at 4:15 p.m. in Conference Room II.

Goal #2: Improve HRC quality. Commissioners Hansen, Jackson, Allen.

The commissioner get-together scheduled for this evening at Commissioner Hansen's was canceled due to excessive heat. The event was rescheduled for July 9, following the regular meeting.

Attendance at commission meetings has been stable the last few months with a quorum being present.

Goal #3: Improve tenant/landlord communication. Commissioners Root and Stewart. Commissioner Allen will assist.

Commissioner Stewart commented that the committee did not meet as planned. She was concerned about the lack of attendance at subcommittee meetings. She will contact Commissioner Root to see whether or not she is willing to actively continue with this group. Commissioners Stewart and Allen will attend the July 11 Safe Community Advisory Committee to discuss improving landlord-tenant communications. Commissioner Allen stated that Jerry Maro of the Landlord Association committed to participating on this subcommittee.

Goal #4: Decrease incidents of bullying and violence. Commissioners Beacham, Stewart and Allen.

Mediation Initiative: Kelly spoke with Eric Dregne of the Community Foundation regarding discussion they had in working with Charles Barker. He indicated that they didn't have any concrete plans at this point, but that they did meet with Mr. Barker after the sessions that he held in Galena for community members there. The focus of those sessions was to give community leaders some mediation/negotiation skills to use in their meetings and their attempts to collaborate more effectively across organizations in their community. More clarity is needed on what this commission wants to accomplish, and who they want to reach. If it's about doing something similar to Galena, then that is more focused on leadership and we could bring Barker in to do that. If it's more about getting basic skills out to community members in small groups at a time, that is probably not something we would bring him in to do. Commissioner Stewart indicated that the subcommittee talked about either doing this as part of the International Day of Peace or a separate event. This will be discussed at the June 19 subcommittee meeting.

Diversity Conference: Jess Love provided an update from the Diversity Conference planning committee. The conference will focus on the LGBT community providing education on a number of topics to junior high, high school, and college students, professionals, and community members at either Loras or UD. They have confirmed Zach Wahls as the keynote speaker and are currently looking for funding sources to cover the \$5,000 honorarium. They are estimating the cost to be \$20, which covers lunch and rental of space and equipment. It was suggested that they contact faces & voices for possible funding. Kelly stated that she could possibly request to carry over funds, but that may take some time to be approved.

Collaboration with Community Foundation of Greater DBQ and Day of Peace:

Jessica Rose, Program Coordinator for Diversity and Inclusion, presented information on "Speak Your Peace: The Civility Project," a community awareness project that is a new initiative of the Foundation which focuses on nine tools of civility: show respect, pay attention, not gossip, give constructive criticism, be inclusive, apologize, take

responsibility, listen and be agreeable. The goal is to have a nine week campaign based on the nine tools that leads to the International Day of Peace on September 21. The actual project on the Day of Peace will focus on the arts so they can incorporate the schools to showcase all of the work. They are now discussing whether they want to start the nine day challenge before or after September 21, and then have the kickoff at the Day of Peace so that the schools receive the full benefit of all nine weeks.

Kelly stated that she invited Jessica to today's meeting to see if there was any commission interest in the Speak Your Peace Project. She invited Roger, Thom and Hiram from the DDRC to see if there was any interest in partnering to either work on the weekly events that are happening or to do a particular program or skills training by our mediators around some of these topics for the Day of Peace. The Commission received a letter from Art Roche from the Day of Peace committee asking whether they want to be listed as a sponsor, and/or do any kind of an event. Commissioner Allen moved to sponsor the International Day of Peace. Commissioner Elliott seconded. All in favor.

Commissioner Stewart asked Roger if the DDRC would be interested in partnering to work on an event. Since he was the only one in attendance, he suggested having further discussion on the format and time commitment at the next DDRC meeting scheduled August 7. Subcommittee members and Jessica Rose will attend the August 7<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss potential collaboration with the Speak your Peace initiative.

Goal #5: Help promote the NAACP. Commissioners Elliott, Root, Stewart and Krey. Commissioner Stewart proposed joint subcommittee meetings of Goal 1 and Goal 5 as she feels they are basically working towards the same initiatives with the NAACP. Commissioner Allen clarified that Goal 5 works toward the NAACP newsletter and conflict resolution. Goal 1 works more toward marketing and education. He concurred they could meet jointly as long as the matters discussed related to marketing and not the conflict resolution. He recommended keeping them separate because there are outside committee members who attend Goal 1 meetings.

Commissioner Stewart questioned the status of the NAACP mediation attempt. The mediation has been declined. Commissioner Stewart suggested maybe a goal setting session to help talk through some issues with the current board members. Commissioner Allen will talk to Lynn Sutton regarding this proposal.

## **New Business**

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Hansen and second by Commissioner Jackson. All in favor. The meeting of the Human Rights Commission adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 9, 2012.

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

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

Arthur G.