

**CITY OF DUBUQUE  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES OF  
May 14, 2012**

Commissioner Allen called the meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 4:29 p.m. on Monday, May 14, 2012, at the City Hall Annex, 1300 Main Street, Conference Room II Dubuque, Iowa.

**Roll Call:**

Present:           Anthony Allen, Chair                   Kurt Hansen  
                  Andrea Beacham                   Mitzi Krey  
                  Mike Elliott                         RRS Stewart  
                  Miquel Jackson

Absent:           Judie Root

Staff:             Carol Spinoso                         Kelly Larson

Commissioner Beacham moved and a second by Commissioner Hansen to change the order of the agenda to allow the guests from the Riverview Center, PFLAG and UD to share information on upcoming events. All in favor.

**Discuss collaboration opportunities with Riverview Center and PFLAG**

Present:           Matt Zanger, Riverview Center       Larry Loepke, PFLAG  
                  Tyler Dague, PFLAG                 Joan Efken, PFLAG  
                  Jess Love, University of Dubuque

As part of Goal #4, Commissioners Beacham and Stewart invited representatives from the Riverview Center and PFLAG so they could brainstorm ideas for a diversity conference. Jess Love distributed a draft of a proposal for a Diversity Conference entitled Eliminate the Hate that the College Alliance is planning for October 27, 2012. The University of Dubuque, Loras, DHRC, Riverview Center, PFLAG and Midwest Equality Foundation will sponsor a one-day conference that will consist of break-out sessions focusing on a wide range of issues facing the LGBTQ community. Topics include Ally Training, LGBTQAAA Diversity Panel, Anti-Bullying Training, PFLAG Session, and The Legality of Gay. Jess solicited other ideas from the group and encouraged participation. Commissioner Beacham suggested a component for high school students. Commissioner Hansen has a friend who is a professor of theology who has been doing research in the area of contempt who also gives presentations on that topic. He can contact him if they are interested. Tyler suggested Zach Wahls as a possible keynote speaker, and mentioned that PFLAG National also presents diversity training. The planning group will notify the commission liaison when the next planning meeting is scheduled.

**Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Hansen moved to approve the Human Rights Commission meeting minutes of April 9, 2012. Commissioner Elliott seconded. All in favor of approving the meeting minutes as submitted.

**Reports**

**Caseload Report**

The written report for April 2012 was submitted.

### Chairperson's Report

Commissioner Allen reported that he was involved in police testing. He also attended a panel discussion at Clarke regarding the Treyvon Martin incident, DDRC Focus Group meeting, NAACP meeting, and the Black Men Coalition meeting.

### Director's Report

Kelly reported that the Juneteen celebration is June 16 at Comiskey Park, and the Marshallese Independence Day is May 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at Prescott. The Department will have an AmeriCorps VISTA member starting in June for one year, and a Loras intern in the fall who will work with the VISTA on the volunteer coordination piece.

### 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 and Krey.

The group met to discuss educating the community on the ADA. Commissioner Hansen will contact Megan Gloss to discuss the possibility of running a series of informative articles in the TH. Commissioner Jackson will begin planning for a BBQ in an attempt to promote interaction between various races/nationalities. They talked about collaborating with the colleges to hold a forum to educate the community on individual rights and the Constitution.

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

The group recommends that commission members attend and support local programs cohesively and continue to work with other commissions and committees as well as local colleges to assist and develop local programs. They will work with the City Council to gain new interest in the Human Rights Commission. Commissioner Hansen moved to add five minute commissioner bios during reflections at each meeting. Commissioner Beacham seconded. All in favor. They will begin with Commissioner Jackson. Commissioner Beacham would like to see the next monthly meeting date added at the end of the agenda.

Goal #3: Improve tenant/landlord communication. Commissioners Root and Stewart.

Commissioner Allen will assist.

Commissioner Allen talked with Jerry Maro of the Landlord Association, and he would be willing to work with them to form a joint committee in an attempt to foster better landlord/tenant relationships.

Goal #4: Decrease incidents of bullying and violence. Commissioners Beacham, Stewart and Allen. Commissioner Beacham moved and Commissioner Elliott seconded to co-sponsor and help with the Diversity Conference: Eliminate the Hate Workshop, that will be held at Loras on October 27, 2012. All in favor. Commissioner Hansen moved to appoint Commissioner Beacham as the liaison to the College Alliance diversity conference planning committee. Commissioner Stewart seconded. All in favor.

They also discussed partnering with the Community Foundation and the Day of Peace organizers to have the Getting to Yes speaker host a workshop during the Day of Peace events. Kelly will contact Eric Dregne regarding lending support in the planning of that Getting to Yes city-wide event. Commissioner Allen will talk to Hiram Melendez, DDRC chairperson, to see if that group would want to partner with the DHRC for a mediation presentation either during the Day of Peace event, the October 27<sup>th</sup> diversity workshop or the city-wide event. Commissioner Stewart moved to approach the Day of Peace planning committee to offer our support and participation in the event. Seconded by Commissioner Beacham. All in favor.

Goal #5: Help promote the NAACP. Commissioners Elliott, Root, Stewart and Krey.

The group will seek co-sponsorship with the NAACP for the community barbeque and dialogue circles to foster awareness about the history and goals of the NAACP.

Commissioner Stewart met with Commissioners Krey and Elliott on the April 21<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Stewart stated that there has been a lot of changeover within the NAACP so they discussed offering mediation to the executive board to help them talk through some issues that need to be resolved. Commissioner Allen suggested working with the DDRC to proceed with scheduling mediation with that group. Staff will prepare the paperwork and get it assigned to a mediator for intake.

### **New Business**

#### **International Speakers Bureau Liaison**

Commissioner Krey agreed to continue to be the liaison to this group.

#### **Staffing Booth at Juneteenth – June 16**

Commissioner Allen will be at the event organizing the basketball activities. Further discussion will ensue at next month's meeting.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Beacham and second by Commissioner Elliott. All in favor. The meeting of the Human Rights Commission adjourned at 6:29 PM.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 11, 2012.

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

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