

**CITY OF DUBUQUE
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
February 11, 2013**

Commissioner Stewart called the meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 4:37 p.m. on Monday, February 11, 2013, at the City Hall Annex, 1300 Main Street, Conference Room II Dubuque, Iowa.

Roll Call:

Present: Anthony Allen, Chair Miquel Jackson
 Andrea Beacham Howard Lee III
 Mike Elliott Jeff Lenhart
 Andrea Helgager RRS Stewart, Vice-Chair

Absent:

Staff: Carol Spinoso Kelly Larson

Oath of Office

Commissioner Stewart administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Helgager.

Approval of Minutes

The Human Rights Commission meeting minutes of January 14, 2013 were approved by unanimous consent after motion by Commissioner Allen, second by Commissioner Lenhart.

Reports

Caseload Report

The written report for January 2013 was submitted.

Chairperson's Report

Commissioner Allen reported that the Safe Community Advisory Committee will have a work session with the City Council on February 18th to review the progress of the 60 recommendations from the Safe Community Task Force. He will be meeting with the NAACP to revisit the Dubuque Community Advisory Panel (DCAP) MOU. Commissioner Allen will not be able to attend the DDRC immediately following this meeting as he is participating in a Black History Month event at Clarke. Commissioner Stewart suggested that he discuss the tenants association, a goal from the previous year, with the Safe Community Advisory Committee.

Director's Report

Kelly reported that February is budget month. She thanked RRS and Jeff for attending the Department's presentation. The final budget hearing will be on February 28th.

Molly Menster has resigned from her position as Human Relations Specialist. Staff is currently rewriting the job description and will soon be advertising for that position.

Andre has been working on recruitment efforts for the MFC director and assistant director, and the Police Department. He is also planning orientation that includes some pieces around retention. In addition, two of our police officers who went through the Intercultural Leadership Training have created a communications course for new Field Training Officers to help them build stronger supportive mentoring relationships with people in the community.

Nikola is currently planning the Citizen Academy. This 10-week pilot program will begin April 4. Nikola has also been working with Washington Neighborhood residents on some community

engagement pieces; the aquatics center; and the volunteer center. He is working with a group of non-profits that have come together and are looking for ways to collaborate on volunteer efforts in the community. Lastly, the Sisters of St. Francis are planning an inter-faith group meeting on February 24th to do some brainstorming on community outreach around religious diversity.

Old Business

Review and Discuss Goals

Goal #1: Increase opportunities for citizen dialogue and education on human and civil rights: Howard, Miquel, Anthony, Jeff, RRS, Andrea H.

Andrea Helgager will also serve on this subcommittee.

Goal #2: Commission business/improve HRC quality: Miquel, Howard, Anthony, Andrea B., Mike, Jeff

Jeff Lenhart will also serve on this subcommittee.

Commissioner Allen asked that the “Rule of the Month” be addressed at next month’s meeting. He asked Commissioners to review Title 8, Chapter 3: Unfair and Discriminatory Practices, prior to the March meeting.

Goal #3: Community dialogue and education on bullying and Violence: Miquel, Howard, Andrea B., Jeff, RRS

Goal #4: Increase collaborations/partnerships to further the mission of the DHRC: Howard, Miquel, Andrea H., RRS, Mike
It was decided to this goal would focus on new collaborations and partnerships.

Commissioner Jackson announced several events taking place as part of the Black History Month College Tour.

New Business

Commissioner Stewart distributed information on a number of anniversaries occurring this year. January was the 150th anniversary since the Emancipation Proclamation; March will be 100 years since the Woman’s Suffrage Parade; April the 45th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act; and August the 50th anniversary since the March for Jobs and Freedom. She suggested preparing proclamations for the Woman’s Suffrage Parade and Fair Housing Month to present to the Council at the March 18th meeting. She also suggested holding a reception at 5:00 p.m. on March 20 at the Library in recognition of the proclamations. She recommended issuing a press release and inviting the Housing Commission and City Council members.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Allen, second by Commissioner Lenhart. All in favor. The meeting of the Human Rights Commission adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 11, 2013.

Minutes approved as submitted:  _____

Minutes approved as corrected: _____