

**CITY OF DUBUQUE
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
February 10, 2014**

Commissioner Beacham called the meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 4:28 p.m. on Monday, January 13, 2014, at the City Hall Annex, 1300 Main Street, Conference Room II, Dubuque, Iowa.

Roll Call:

Present:	Anthony Allen, Chair	Howard Lee
	Andrea Beacham	Jeff Lenhart
	Andrea Helgager	Tom LoGuidice
	Miquel Jackson	Chris Ostwinkle
		RRS Stewart
Staff:	Carol Spinoso	Kelly Larson
	Manisha Paudel	

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Allen moved to approve the meeting minutes of January 13, 2014. Commissioner Stewart seconded. All in favor.

Reports:

Caseload Report

The January 2014 caseload report was received and filed.

Chairperson's Report

Commissioner Allen reported that he took a group of students from the Alternative Learning Center (ALC) to meet with Corrine Murray from the Presentation Lantern Center, who is involved with International Speakers Bureau, to discuss immigration issues. A group of ALC students who were involved in MLK activities and are producing a short film that they hope to enter into the Dubuque Film Festival.

The Manhood Project, through the Black Men Coalition, completed week four of its five week program. The group consists of five young men and they have had speakers on teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted disease, rites of passage into manhood, and healthy relationships.

He facilitated a mediation session at Senior High School that involved conflict between several students.

In March, members of the Dubuque Community Police Relations Committee (DCPR) will begin the marketing campaign and will be meeting with both the Dubuque Police Protective Association and the NAACP.

He met with the Director of the Multicultural Family Center, Abeni El-Amin, who is working with Commissioner Jackson and Marcos Rubinstein in developing an on-line data base where community groups can access, share and update current events and provide information.

He will be participating in a panel discussion on the use of the "N" word in the black community as part of Black History Month.

Lastly, he met with Mary Sawyer from the Culture of Non-Violence Coalition. She would like to provide information on their work on the Weapons Free Environment plan. This will be associated with their work under goal #3. Commissioner Allen will invite her to the April 14th meeting.

Director's Report:

Kelly reported that her written summary provides updates on on-going projects. She stated that the Iowa State University Extension has asked staff to present a full-day workshop on diversity at their Non-Profit Management Academy that will be offered in Dubuque in November.

Next Monday evening there will be a City Council closed session to work towards finalizing HUD's Volunteer Compliance Agreement.

Taste of the World is March 22, at Five Flags.

Staff is drafting an application for a three-year capacity building VISTA position, with the focus of work being on supporting the Circles Initiative, Project concern, and Operation New View in creating a sustainable volunteer recruitment and retention system. This is being done in collaboration with the Loras College Service Learning Program.

Kelly will be traveling to China February 21 through March 14, 2014 as part of the Professional Fellows Exchange Program through the International City/county Management Association for people in public administration.

Standing Items:

Goal #3: Discuss Criminal Justice procedures as they relate to racial disparities
Chief Dalsing will provide data on traffic stop/arrests at the March 10 meeting.

Kelly distributed information on bias-free communication. Due to time constraints, Commissioners will discuss this further at a future meeting or possibly at the retreat.

New Business:

Inclusive Dubuque – Jessica Rose

Jessica provided information on the mission and vision statements and partners associated with Inclusive Dubuque. She stated that Inclusive Dubuque is a process and that they are in the beginning of that process. She stated that they have created four committees; Community Engagement, Communications, Development, and the Data Committees which community members are welcome to become involved in.

Old Business:

Review and Discuss Goals

Goal #1: Strengthen Relationships - Allen, Beacham, Helgager, Jackson, Lenhart, Ostwinkle

Commissioner Helgager reviewed revisions to goals and initiatives for goal #1 and #2. To allow discussion on goal #4, due to time and the need for some commissioners to leave, Commissioner LoGuiduce moved to approve the revised goals as stated and table further discussion until later in the meeting. Commissioner Allen seconded.

Commissioner LoGuiduce moved to take from the table discussion on goals 1 and 2. Commissioner Allen seconded. The motion on the floor is to approve the revised goals as presented. No further discussion. Approved by unanimous consent.

It was decided that the commissioner retreat will be held the afternoon of Saturday, March 22. They will review the mission statement, the bias-free communications material, and pull together as a group. The subcommittee will determine the location.

Goal #2: Improving Effectiveness and quality of meetings – Beacham, Helgager, Lee, LoGuidice, Ostwinkle

Commissioners provided information on their involvement in the community. Commissioner LoGuidice provided information on facilitation skills that he thought would be helpful in improving the effectiveness of meetings.

Commissioners should submit agenda items to Carol by 5:00 p.m. the Monday prior to the commission meeting.

The Training and Workforce Development Coordinator will speak on recruitment and retention efforts at the May 12 commission meeting.

Goal #4: Education and communication regarding Housing – Allen, Lee, Lenhart, Stewart

Commissioner Lee reported that he attended the Point Neighborhood Association meeting. He suggested that commissioners get badges that identify them as a Human Rights Commissioner as they begin attending more community meetings/events. Kelly will follow-up on that request.

Commissioner Allen asked that they review the list of organizations, and identify nine groups that they would like to reconnect with. Liaison appointments will be made at next month's meeting. He will note which organizations the commission is required to have commission representation.

Commissioner Stewart suggested that goal 4(d) be combined with goal 5(a) and moved to goal 5, and then 4(d) will be replaced with outreach to neighborhood associations. Approved by unanimous consent. The group discussed sending letters of inquiry offering assistance to organizations.

Goal #5: Participate in Inclusive Dubuque process: Allen, Helgager, Jackson, Lenhart, LoGuidice, Stewart

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Allen, second by Commissioner Stewart. All in favor. The meeting of the Human Rights Commission adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Commissioner Allen will lead the next regular meeting scheduled for Monday, March 10, 2014.

Minutes approved as submitted: _____

Minutes approved as corrected: _____