

**CITY OF DUBUQUE
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
August 11, 2014**

Commissioner Ostwinkle called the meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, August 11, 2014, at the City Hall Annex, 1300 Main Street, Conference Room II, Dubuque, Iowa.

Roll Call:

Present:	Anthony Allen, Chair Miquel Jackson Jeff Lenhart	Tom LoGuidice Chris Ostwinkle RRS Stewart Susan Stone
Absent:	Howard Lee	Ashley Melchert
Staff:	Carol Spinoso	Kelly Larson

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner LoGuidice moved to approve the meeting minutes of July 14, 2014 as submitted. Commissioner Lenhart seconded. All in favor.

Reports:

Caseload Report

The July 2014 caseload report was received and filed.

Chairperson's Report

Commissioner Allen continues to work with the NAACP. Commissioners LoGuidice, Stewart and Lee worked on updating the NAACP By-Laws to make them more consistent with the other boards and commissions throughout the city.

The Community Police Relations Committee (CPRC) met August 4th to finalize the By-Laws. The formal name change from Dubuque Community Advisory Panel (DCAP) to Community Police Relations Committee has been approved. They are now working with the Police Chief, Dubuque Police Protection Association (DPPA) and the City Manager to update membership.

The Dubuque Independent Football League will be making a contribution to help with expenses for the DBQ Community BBQ.

The Black Man Coalition (BMC) has completed their strategic planning. They will begin setting up the mentoring program for this school year.

Director's Report:

A written report was submitted.

Old Business:

Source of Income

~ City of Marion Source of Income Ordinance

Kelly provided a memo which gave information on the City of Marion's ordinance that relates to source of income, as well as data showing the number of people who moved off of government assistance.

~Discuss process to follow on proposed Source of Income Amendment

It was suggested that the Commission come up with some a process to follow in addressing the source of income issues in a public forum. A copy of the Dubuque County's "General Rules for Public Participation" was provided. Consensus was that they didn't want to rush the process. They felt it was important to continue dialogue and gather input from members of the Landlord Association as well as members of the general public. Within the next month they will select a date for a special meeting to allow for public input on this issue. It was suggested that this forum be held in the Library Auditorium.

~American Planning Association Article on Housing Support System

Commissioner Stewart shared an article from the American Planning Association which focuses on supportive housing for the homeless.

~Jerry Maro, President of the Landlord Association

Commissioner Allen moved to suspend rules limiting debate to open discussion to members present from the Landlord Association. Commissioner LoGuidice seconded. All in favor.

Mr. Maro thanked commissioners for the opportunity to convey some concerns about the proposed source of income amendment. He stated that Association members are displeased with this proposal. They specifically had concerns about the lack of recovery for damages to their property, the red tape involved in participating in the Section 8 program, and concerns about being forced into participating in the Section 8 Program.

The landlords feels that there is a higher risk for loss when dealing with individuals receiving income from Section 8 due to the inability to garnish or file small claims against tenants receiving government assistance. Landlords were asked if they had any options/ideas for recovery. An idea suggested was the possibly of a property tax adjustment of some sort since the Section 8 Program no longer helps with that recovery. There were also concerns about insurance companies charging higher rates for Section 8 units, adding that those added costs to landlords would ultimately be passed along to the tenants.

There were questions about using temporary sources of income when calculating eligibility criteria. It was reiterated that the ordinance wouldn't take away a landlords right to have their income criteria, but that they have to take into consideration a person's monthly SSI, Section 8, or any other federal or state income when calculating their income criteria. If a prospective tenant doesn't meet the established criteria including those sources, then a landlord does not have to rent to that individual because they don't meet their criteria.

A question was raised as to whether or not the area of credit, as far as home ownership, should also include source of income as a protected class. Staff will attempt to find sample ordinances.

Three main issues were identified that both the Commission and the Landlord Association could collaborate on: 1) partnership on holding a public forum; 2) clarifying the various types of sources of income and the three definitions being proposed; and 3) landlords' provide some solutions for recovery of damages of their properties.

To accommodate work schedules, a 7:00 p.m. starting time for the public forum was recommended. They will also look into scheduling a worksession with the City Council on this proposed amendment. It was suggested that staff send the Marion, Iowa City, Minnesota and ordinance and data received today along with ordinances from Iowa City, Minnesota and Wisconsin and the various fair housing publication to Housing and Legal and ask for their input and opinion on this process as well. No objections.

Commissioner Allen moved and Commissioner LoGuidice seconded to close public comment. All in favor.

New Business:

Commissioner Stewart moved to change the meeting location to the Library and the start time to 4:00 p.m. for the September and October meetings. Commissioner LoGuidice seconded. Commissioner Allen offered a friendly amendment to change the regular meeting starting time to 4:30 p.m. with the location remaining here at the City Hall Annex. Commissioners Stewart and LoGuidice accepted the friendly amendment. All in favor.

Commissioner Stewart reported on workshop topics at the Local and Regional Government Alliance on Race & Equity Conference she attended earlier this month.

Kelly asked Commissioner Lenhart to print comments from his Facebook page related to the proposed source of income ordinance amendment. Copies were distributed.

Standing Items:

Review and Discuss Goals

Goal #1 & 2:

Sub. Goal #1: Strengthen DHRC relationships as well as relationships between the community

Members discussed Sub Goal 1(e) creating an informational display. They will be meeting with Manisha to determine what educational information is already available for the display.

Sub. Goal #2: Ensure DHRC feel their roles are meaningful &productive by improving effectiveness and quality of meetings.

Commissioner Allen summarized results of the evaluation of last month's meeting:

What went well?

- ~ Commissioners are engaged
- ~ Specifics of the agenda were addressed

What could have gone better?

- ~ Arguing/debating procedure with guests present
- ~ Spent too much time on source of income agenda item

Goal #3: Discuss Criminal Justice procedures as they relate to racial disparities

Racial Disparities Forum Planning Subcommittee Update

Commissioner LoGuidice presented a proposal for action entitled *Developing a Plan for Sustainable Change*, subtitled *"Reducing racial, ethnic, and social class disparity in the criminal justice system in the City of Dubuque by providing access and opportunity for all."* The group will soon be announcing the date for this fall's Race Disparity Public Forum. He will inform commissioners at the September 8th meeting. The next subcommittee meeting is August 22 at 4:00 p.m. in Conference Room I.

Goal #4: Education and communication regarding Housing

Commissioner Stewart reminded commissioners of the Fair Housing Training being presented August 14-16 and August 21-23.

Goal #5: Participate in Inclusive Dubuque process

DBQ BBQ Subcommittee Update

Subcommittee members have been looking at alternate sources of funding since they were not awarded a Sustainable Dubuque grant. A copy of the International Day of Peace brochures were available for review.

Inclusive Dubuque

Commissioner Jackson stated that he is a member of the Inclusive Dubuque community engagement subcommittee, and that he is currently identifying team members to work on the community outreach format. He thanked commissioners for joining the committee. Commissioners should let him know which area they would like to work on. He will keep commissioners informed of upcoming meeting dates.

Appoint Liaisons to CPRC and DDRC

The Community Police Relations Committee (CPRC) meets quarterly and then on an as needed basis depending on complaints. Kelly and Chief Dalsing will present a training session to CPRC members on October 27 from 5:30 – 8:30. Appointments were tabled until next month's meeting.

Consent Items:

Day of Peace Proclamation

Commissioner Allen moved and Commissioner Stork seconded to approve the Day of Peace Proclamation. All in favor. Commissioner LoGuidice abstained.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Allen, second by Commissioner Jackson. All in favor. The meeting of the Human Rights Commission adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Commissioner Allen will lead the next regular meeting scheduled for Monday, September 8, 2014 at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes approved as submitted: _____

Minutes approved as corrected: _____