

**DUBUQUE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
November 9, 2015**

Commissioner Allen called the meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, November 9, 2015, at the City Hall Annex, 1300 Main Street, Conference Room II, Dubuque, Iowa.

Roll Call:

Present: Anthony Allen, Chair
Fred Davis
Tanya Engling
Sarah Fisher
Miquel Jackson, Vice-Chair
Tom LoGuidice
Ashley Melchert

Absent: Shirley Vaughn

Staff: Kelly Larson
Carol Spinoso

Oath of Office

The Chair administered the oath of office to Commissioner Sarah Fisher.

Approval of October 12, 2015 Minutes:

Commissioner LoGuidice moved to approve the Human Rights Commission meeting minutes of October 12, 2015. Commissioner Davis seconded. All in favor of approving the meeting minutes as submitted.

Reports:

Caseload Report

The October 2015 Caseload Report was received and filed.

Chairperson's Report

Commissioner Allen reported on the following activities:

~ The NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet will be held this Saturday, November 14 at the Diamond Jo beginning at 6:00 p.m. Along with the Ruby Sutton Humanitarian Award, the Thom Determan SCOPE Award, the Jerome Thomas Black Manhood Award, and the Minority Student Athlete Award will be presented at the Banquet.

~ The NAACP Education Committee is currently planning the January 2016 MLK Tribute event.

~ Anthony and representatives from Inclusive Dubuque traveled to Los Angeles to attend the Policy Linked Equity Summit. He stated that it was well attended with over 3,000 registered.

~ Through Inclusive Dubuque, Anthony and Tom presented segments on local housing issues and the national Black Lives Matter effort at the Working Families Summit that was held November 7 at NICC.

~ The DCPRC will be holding training and goal setting on February 11, 2016. Leadership positions will be due for appointment as well.

~ Anthony reported that discussions continue on the renaming of the Multicultural Family Center to the Ruby Sutton Multicultural Family Center.

Commissioner LoGuidice requested that this item be placed on next month's agenda as an action item.

Director's Report:

Kelly provided a written quarterly report on departmental activities.

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

Vote on Criminal Justice Resolution

Commissioner LoGuidice moved to adopt the proposed resolution on criminal justice subject to policies governing resolutions by city commissions. Commissioner Jackson seconded. Tom provided background information for new commissioners relating to the work that has been done addressing local racial disparities. He prepared and distributed proposed resolutions with the intent for the commission to work on each resolution under current goals. Call for the vote: All in favor.

Update Liaison List

Changes were made to the Commission Organization Liaison List. The list will be updated and distributed to commissioners.

Standing Items:

Goal 1: Research, illuminate and eliminate disparities (and increase cultural competencies) in education, criminal justice and housing. (*Jackson, Melchert, Engling, LoGuidice, Allen)

Steve Drahozal from the Public Defender's office presented information on fair and impartial practices in due process. He stated that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court has been discussing racial disparities in Iowa courts for the past two years because there has been a lot of racial disparity in Iowa courts. At a criminal justice summit earlier this year the Governor appointed a working group that was to address issues in criminal justice in the state of Iowa and make recommendation. Steve will forward the link to the website where those recommendations can be reviewed.

Commissioner LoGuidice stated that he and Commissioner Jackson are planning to invite Rachel Daack, the Chair of the NAACP Education Committee, to next month's meeting so that she can provide information on their committee work.

Commissioner Engling expressed an interest in working with this subcommittee.

Goal 2: Provide input to City Council goals and priorities and support the Human rights Commission's goals and priorities. (Full commission participation) *Allen is Chair.

Anthony will prepare a report to update the City Council on current Commission activities and will distribute to commissioners prior to next month's meeting.

Goal 3: Continue to improve communication within and among community groups in order to improve human rights initiatives. (Davis, *Vaughn, Allen, Fisher)

Commission members reviewed the meeting minutes from November 4. The Chair asked that commissioners review the PowerPoint presentation so when they conduct speaking engagements that they are consistent and convey the same content.

Commissioner LoGuidice commented that the next newsletter will have a piece about the PowerPoint and it's availability to various organizations.

Commissioners requested that Commissioner Vaughn provide more detailed information at next month's meeting on planning the 2016 joint meeting with policy makers.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Jackson, second by Commissioner Davis. The meeting of the Human Rights Commission adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 14, 2015 at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes approved as submitted: _____

Minutes approved as corrected: _____

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be 'A. J.', is written over the signature lines for both 'Minutes approved as submitted' and 'Minutes approved as corrected'.