

**DUBUQUE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
May 9, 2016**

Commissioner Jackson called the meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 4:40 p.m. on Monday, May 9, 2016, at the City Hall Annex, 1300 Main Street, Conference Room II, Dubuque, Iowa.

Roll Call:

Present:	Fred Davis	Jeff Lenhart
	Sarah Fisher	Jay Schiesl
	Miquel Jackson, Vice-Chair	Adrienne Scott
Absent:	Anthony Allen, Chair	Shirley Templeton Vaughn
	Angela Jones	
Staff:	Kelly Larson	Carol Spinoso
	Taj Suleyman	

Oath of Office

Commissioner Jackson administered the oath of office to new commissioners Lenhart and Schiesl

Approval of April 11, and April 18, 2016 Minutes:

Commissioner Davis moved to approve the meeting minutes of April 11, and April 18, 2016 as submitted. Commissioner Scott seconded. All in favor of approving the minutes as submitted.

Reports:

Caseload Report

The April 2016 Caseload Report was received and filed.

Election of Officers

Commissioner Jackson opened the floor for nominations of Chairperson. Commissioner Jackson nominated Commissioner Allen. No other nominations. Nominations closed. Commissioner Allen was appointed Chair by unanimous consent.

Commissioner Jackson opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chair. Commissioner Davis nominated Commissioner Jackson. No other nominations. Nominations closed. Commission Jackson appointed Vice-Chair by unanimous consent.

Old Business:

Continue Work on Goals

Notes were distributed from the April 28th goal setting session, along with a list of Observations and Recommendations from the facilitator. Commissioners discussed possible goals that were identified that could possibly fall under last year's goals 1 and 3, or they can establish new goals:

- Host an open house with neighborhood groups with various commissions
- Assist the Inclusive Dubuque working groups
- Explore the impact of No Child Left Behind
- Explore the potential of supporting the work the City will be doing with a consultant to assess ADA infrastructure and usability of City facilities for people with disabilities

It was suggested that they identify specific initiatives with attainable action steps.

It was felt that the No Child Left Behind initiative is needed as it has the greatest impact on kids in the community. This can be addressed under research disparities in education under Goal 1.

Educating the community on transgender rights, beginning with educating the Human Rights Commission; continuing basic human rights education in the community utilizing Commissioner Tempelton Vaughn's PowerPoint presentation; and supporting the Inclusive Dubuque working groups would fall under Goal #3 (now Goal #2).

It was voiced that it was important to be involved with the Inclusive Dubuque working groups to understand what specific action they are taking and to see if we can collaborate with some of the groups in some way to stay aligned. Perhaps invite someone to attend a meeting to provide an update on each working group. This would be part of Goal #2.

Commissioner Davis indicated that once he receives the final PowerPoint presentation, he will begin meeting with various church organizations and other groups to educate them on the functions and duties of the Human Rights Commission.

Taj offered to meet with commissioners one-on-one to help each identify personal visions so they can align with the group's overall focus.

There was discussion about revisiting the Commission's mission statement to possibly align with the Human Rights Department and City Council's mission statements. An agenda item related to this discussion will be added to the June agenda.

For Goal 1, it was suggested that the areas of education and housing remain, add employment, and remove criminal justice as so many other groups in the community are focusing on the area of criminal justice. The Commission had focused on racial disparities in the criminal justice system in relation to disproportionate arrests related to marijuana by holding two community forums.

Goal 2 "Continue to improve communication within and among community groups in order to improve human rights initiatives."

They will continue the discussion about initiatives at next month's meeting.

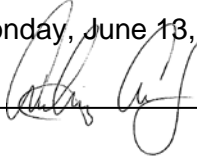
New Business:

Kelly stated that the US Attorney's Office, FBI, Sheriff's Office, Police Department, and County Attorney's Office are going to have a panel discussion in Dubuque on hate crimes and bias incidents on June 1st at 6:30 p.m. (location TBD). The focus will be on how to build collaboration and how to prevent and respond to hate and bias incidents. She received a phone call today asking whether the Commission would like to be listed as a co-host for the event. In order to take official action they will need to schedule a special meeting to discuss. It was agreed upon that a special meeting be called on Wednesday, May 18 at 4:30 p.m. to take action on the request.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Scott, second by Commissioner Davis. The meeting of the Human Rights Commission adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 13, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes approved as submitted: _____ 

Minutes approved as corrected: _____