

**DUBUQUE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
March 13, 2017**

Commissioner Allen called the meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, March 13, 2017, at the City Hall Annex, 1300 Main Street, Conference Room II, Dubuque, Iowa.

Roll Call:

Present:	Anthony Allen, Chair Fred Davis Sarah Fisher	Jay Schiesl Adrienne Scott
Absent:	Miquel Jackson Kate Parks	Shirley Templeton Vaughn
Staff:	Kelly Larson Carol Spinoso	Taj Suleyman

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Schiesl moved to approve the meeting minutes of February 13, 2017. Commissioner Davis seconded. All in favor of approving the minutes as submitted.

Reports:

Caseload Report

The February 2017 Caseload Report was received and filed.

Chairperson Report

Access to Justice - Anthony reported that he attended a meeting with Kelly, Miquel, and local attorneys to discuss the Know your Rights Workshops, and an expungement fair which helps individuals who are felons attain their voting rights.

Steeple Square – To date, the fund-raising campaign has raised \$11.9 million. The former church located at 15th and White Streets will house and event center, non-profit organizations and community gathering spaces.

DCPRC – Anthony will be calling a meeting with signatories to address some concerns of the NAACP.

NAACP – The Bowl-A-Thon is scheduled for April 22.

Anthony has been working with the Dubuque Democratic Socialists to arrange a showing of the film “13th” followed by a panel discussion at Mindframe Theaters.

The MFC will be hosting Taste of the World at Five Flags on Saturday, April 1 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Director’s Report

Reports are submitted quarterly.

Old Business:

Process to Create an Ordinance

Kelly explained that in preparation for submitting a proposed ordinance to the City Council they should be prepared to present background material, research and any facts associated with the proposed ordinance, provide a description of gay conversion therapy, explain what has been done to engage people who would be directly impacted by an ordinance, review other city ordinances, and then present a proposed ordinance to the Council.

New Business:

Election of Officers

The Chair opened the floor for nominations of Chairperson. Commissioner Schiesl nominated Commissioner Allen. Commissioner Allen nominated Commissioner Jackson. Nominations closed. By a vote of 3 – 2, Commissioner Allen was appointed Chairperson.

The Chair opened the floor for nomination of Vice-Chairperson. Commissioner Davis nominated Commissioner Schiesl. Commissioner Allen nominated Commissioner Fisher. Nominations closed. By a vote of 4 – 1, Commissioner Schiesl was appointed Vice-Chairperson.

Standing Items: Goals

Goal 1: Research, illuminate and eliminate disparities and increase cultural competencies in education, housing, and employment. Initiatives identified.

Commissioner Schiesl was not present at the February 27th meeting. The group will be drafting a job description for the equity position. He voiced concerns related to the number of behavioral referrals in the downtown schools and would like to validate that data. Kelly suggested that they contact Mae Hingtgen from the DCSD to obtain that data. The next subcommittee meeting is scheduled for March 27 at NICC at 5:00 p.m.

Goal 2: Continue to improve communication within and among community groups to improve human rights initiatives.

Nino Erba was present to provide additional information related to the ordinance proposal relating to Gay Conversion Therapy. Kelly stated that the subcommittee will need to create a local ordinance using examples of other local city ordinances for comparison. They will need to provide a definition of gay conversion therapy and suggest what, if any, penalties would be recommended. The Legal Department will review the proposed ordinance prior to being presented to the Council.

Commissioner Fisher stated that they were thinking about covering it under the Consumer Fraud protection. Kelly explained that if they want to do it under Consumer Fraud, they would need to go through state law. She added that there are currently two pending gay conversion therapy bills at the state level that have been referred to the Human Resources Committee.

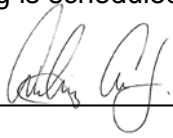
Resulting from her work with Rachel Ferraro, Commissioner Fisher announced that she designed a web page for the transgender community “thisismeioda.org” which provides information, resources, support and more on transgender issues.

Commissioner Fisher will chair this subcommittee and will work on scheduling the next meeting. It was suggested that Rachel Ferraro be invited to next month’s meeting to let her know that the commission is willing to work with her in identifying public areas in the community that are welcoming and safe areas for the transgender community to gather.

Commissioner Allen encouraged commissioners to make a contact and arrange a Human Rights presentation using the PowerPoint presentation that Commissioner Templeton Vaughn prepared. Carol will request the most recent version and will forward it to the entire Commission. He also encouraged participation in the Inclusive Dubuque working groups.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Schiesl moved and Commissioner Scott seconded to adjourn. The Commission adjourned at 6:10 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 10, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes approved as submitted: _____ 

Minutes approved as corrected: _____