

**DUBUQUE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES OF  
December 11, 2017**

Commissioner Allen called the meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 4:33 p.m. on Monday, December 11, 2017, at the City Hall Annex, 1300 Main Street, Conference Room II, Dubuque, Iowa.

**Roll Call:**

Present:	Anthony Allen, Chair Nicole Borovic Indigo Channing Fred Davis	Gerald Hammel Miquel Jackson Kate Parks Jay Schiesl, Vice Chair
Absent:	Adrienne Breitfelder	
Staff:	Kelly Larson Joie Brooks	Carol Spinoso

**Approval of Minutes:**

Commissioner Schiesl moved to approve the meeting minutes of November 13, 2017. Commissioner Hammel seconded. All in favor. Commissioners Channing and Jackson abstained.

**Caseload Report**

The November 2017 caseload report was received and filed.

**Chairperson Report**

NAACP activities include:

Reviewing their annual initiatives and goals, and finalizing previous goals. They will continue to work on housing, education, employment, and mass incarceration.

They need MLK Tribute judges to review entries on Saturday, from 9:00 to noon at Clarke in the Atrium. The MLK march will begin at 12:45 p.m. on Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at Jackson Park and the tribute will take place at the Dream Center.

The Access to Justice Committee met to discuss the public outreach forum they held in Des Moines two weeks ago. They will be working with the NAACP and local attorneys to hold an expungement fair that will be held on February 24, 2018.

Anthony stated that at next month's meeting, they will need to appoint a commissioner to fill a vacancy on the DCPRC. Commissioners Schiesl and Davis expressed interest.

**Director Report:**

A written quarterly report was received and filed.

Kelly explained that about a year ago the City Council passed a resolution around making sure we are advancing diversity and inclusion through recruitment efforts for boards and commissions members. She distributed a demographics form that will now be included with all applications. It is voluntary to complete and is confidential.

### **Old Business:**

Discuss Gay Conversion Therapy – Nino Erba

Nino reiterated his desire to work with the commission to establish an ordinance on banning gay conversion therapy. He asked the Commission to write the ordinance. Commissioner Davis questioned whether these things are occurring in Dubuque right now, to determine whether this should be a priority for the commission. Commissioner Jackson reminded commissioners that in March they agreed to provide support to Nino who would be responsible, along with a subcommittee, to work to research the need in the community, and then prepare the draft ordinance. Commissioner Hammel suggested that perhaps there should be some dialogue with the Dubuque Community School officials.

The commission encouraged Nino to coordinate a working subcommittee and begin the dialogue. Commissioners Channing, Allen, and Jackson are willing to serve on this subcommittee. Commissioner Channing suggested that Nino contact the Child Protective and Welfare Committee to possibly recruit some subcommittee members.

Commissioner Allen stated that the NAACP has established a resolution that will focus on Gay Conversion Therapy, and suggested to Nino that he should work as a NAACP liaison to the DHRC as it relates to this issue.

Jennifer Ney addressed the Commission about issues she experienced related to mental health issues and her eviction from a shelter in Dubuque. Jennifer suggested some sort of an arbitrary board between the shelters, so an individual would have someone to voice their concerns to. It was recommended that Jennifer contact NAMI and other mental health advocacy groups in the community.

### **Standing Items: Goals**

Goal #1: Establish sustainable and consistent equity in the DCSD to live up to the mission and vision statement of the District.

Commissioner Schiesl reported that they are looking at having conversations with the School Board members and the Inclusive Dubuque Education Committee.

Goal #2: Collaborate with the Housing Commission and other partners in the City to make certain we accomplish the following for the benefit of the community.

Alvin Nash, Housing, and Community Development Director, reiterated that when the Commission had presented the proposed ordinance for the inclusion of Source of Income protection, that the City Council instead recommended that they adopt and implement educational and outreach programs and financial incentives to increase participation in the Housing Choice Voucher program. Alvin presented a printed PowerPoint report and provided an update as to the efforts of rebranding the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8).

Housing is working on a proposal that will be presented to the City Council in late January, that will convey the recommended changes related to the rebranding of the HCVP. He will submit that report to the DHRC prior to the presentation to the City Council.

Alvin stated that the SOI issue at this time is on hold, but that SOI could be brought back to the City Council at any time. Alvin commented that he felt it would be more beneficial to pursue SOI following the rebranding process.

Commissioner Borovic distributed the Housing Commission's HCVP Crime/Nuisance Property Report. Kelly encouraged commissioners to use the data in that report to correct individuals who tend to spread misinformation about the HCVP. Commissioner Allen indicated that he will also send the report he received from the Access to Justice Committee regarding Population and the Criminal Justice System in Iowa.

Goal #3: Collaborate in the elimination of barriers in employment to reduce the poverty rate in Dubuque. ~ Review Resilient Community Advisory Commission goals.

Commissioner Parks was not able to attend their last meeting, but does know a committee member who she plans to meet with prior to next month's meeting.

**Adjournment:**

Commissioner Davis moved to adjourn, Commissioner Hammel seconded. All in favor. The meeting ended at 6:00 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, January 8, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes approved as submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Minutes approved as corrected: \_\_\_\_\_