

**DUBUQUE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES OF  
July 9, 2018**

Commissioner Allen called the meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 4:29 p.m. on Monday, July 9, 2018, at the City Hall Annex, 1300 Main Street, Conference Room II, Dubuque, Iowa.

**Roll Call:**

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

**Approval of Minutes from June 11, 2018:**

Motion by Breitfelder, seconded by Hammel to approve the meeting minutes of June 11, 2018. All in favor. All in favor. Parks and Schiesl abstained.

**Reports**

**Caseload Report**

The June 2018 caseload report was received and filed.

**Chairperson Report**

The NAACP has formed a speaker's bureau. Speakers are now available to provide presentations in the schools on a variety of topics. About five speakers attended training sponsored by the school system to help identify presentation topics which would correlate with courses to help students advance.

Anthony met with Jim Holtz, who is working with Leisure Services to increase minority involvement in activities at Comiskey Park.

Anthony will present a segment on the protected classes and the importance of the civil rights movement during next week's Children's Peace Institute at Loras College.

Anthony commented that he would like to see the Juneteenth celebration become a much larger celebrated event. More volunteers would be needed to assist the MFC in boosting community involvement.

**Director Report:**

The quarterly report was received and filed.

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

**Review Studies:**

Commissioner Parks distributed summaries of two studies conducted by the University of Iowa "Schools, Neighborhoods, and Student Outcomes in Dubuque," and "Sustainable Dubuque 2012: Portrait of Poverty Study."

Looking at which factors impact student achievement they found that schools with higher percentages of students receiving free and reduced lunch had lower proficiency and schools that had teacher with more experience had higher proficiency. As a suggestion, they suggested pairing schools where one school would host D-2 students and the other would host 3-5 grades. The pairing could even out free and reduced lunch and teacher experience. They predict this would increase reading proficiency.

There were recommendations that tie directly to Goal #1 initiatives such as to develop a long-term process for collaboration and to have the District collaborate with entities within the city that have similar goals and to align policies, and consider the schools when development is happening.

A question was raised as to how the District is using the information and recommendations from the study as decisions are being made. It was suggested they invite the school board president to attend the September 10th meeting to provide that information and invite Stan Rheingans to the October 8th meeting.

It was suggested that they obtain any information related to the high schools redistricting in 2008, to see what the trend lines are for student achievement by race and socio-economic status before and after redistricting.

The Black Men Coalition mentoring program has been in place at both high schools for the last five or six years. A request was made to obtain statistics on participant achievement, differences in graduation rates, and the average GPA's of participants, as well as statistics from the Iowa Jobs After Graduation (IJAG) program.

Kate will prepare a summary for the GDDC Community Perception Study for the August meeting.

#### **Discuss Partnership with International Day of Peace Festival**

Commissioner Parks moved to partner with the International Day of Peace Festival. Commissioner Jackson seconded. All in favor. The Commissioner will be listed as a partner, will promote the event through the Department's resources, and will co-sponsor the BBQ in DBQ event as part of the Festival. Motion by Commissioner Parks, second by Commission Breitfelder to co-sponsor the BBQ in DBQ event as part of the Day of Peace Festival.

#### **Set Date for Commission Goal Setting**

Staff will contact a facilitator and find a location for goal setting on either Saturday, August 25, 2018 or Saturday, October 6, 2018. Possible facilitators are Nancy Bradley, Dr. Johnson, Dr. Muhammad, or Art Roche.

#### **Information on The Facts/Adolescent Sexual Health in DBQ County**

Commissioner Channing distributed a fact sheet with statistics on adolescent sexual health and teen pregnancy. Dubuque County's teen birth rate is lower than Iowa's statewide rate, but minority teens have a disproportionately higher teen birth rate compared to the county rate.

#### **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.

**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.

Commissioners Channing distributed a draft July newsletter asking for input and information on upcoming events. Commissioners should submit item/suggestions by the last Wednesday of the month.

**Goal #3:** Collaborate in the elimination of barriers in employment to reduce the poverty rate in Dubuque.

Commissioner Jackson stated that the next expungement fair is scheduled October 20, 2018, and the first planning meeting for the Race Forum/Conference is scheduled for July 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the MFC. Commissioners are leaning toward a conference style format.

**Adjournment:**

Commissioner Schiesl motioned to adjourn, and Commissioner Jackson seconded. All in favor. The meeting ended at 6:30 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, August 13, 2018.

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

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