

**DUBUQUE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
May 1, 2019**

Commissioner Allen called the special meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 4:02 p.m. on Wednesday, May 1, 2019, at the City Hall Annex, 1300 Main Street, Conference Room 1, Dubuque, Iowa.

Roll Call:

Present:	Anthony Allen, Chair Nicole Borovic Adrienne Breitfelder	Gerald Hammel Jay Schiesl, Vice Chair
Absent:	Miquel Jackson Kate Parks	Erin Muenster
Staff:	Kelly Larson Carol Spinoso	Jeremy Jensen, Assistant Police Chief

Approve April 25, 2019 Minutes

Commissioner Borovic moved and Commissioner Schiesl seconded to approve the April 25, 2019 meeting minutes as submitted. All in favor.

Review and Approve Draft Op-ed in Response to Bias Incident

Commissioners reviewed two draft Op-eds that were submitted for consideration. Following discussion, the Proposed Op-ed reads as follows:

The Dubuque Human Rights Commission recently held a special session to address a recent bias incident that happened on or around 4/20/19 at Eagle Point Park. The rock area at the fish pond was vandalized with spray paint and included statements such as “white power” and “KKK.” The Commission would like to make a strong and clear statement that racism in any form will not be tolerated in our community! Events like this demonstrate how we are still falling short on the education and outreach needed for Dubuque to be considered a fully inclusive community. Today more than ever we recognize the need for this community to come together to help eradicate racism, hatred, and bigotry. Every time we see a setback in our goals to eliminate discrimination and promote the quality of life for every person in the city of Dubuque, we feel obliged to remind the community that we are a resource and driver of inclusion in Dubuque. Insensitive and offensive messages that deface public property are unacceptable and have no place in our community. Everyone should have the right to feel safe in our community.

Incidents like this will only make the Human Rights Commission work harder to create a community free of racism and bias. We will be identifying community partners to work with in the coming months to consider what groups within the community we need to have dialogue with to promote inclusion. Any member of the community with input is welcomed to contact us and be part of the solution. All of our commission meetings are open to the public and occur on the 2nd Monday of every month at The Jule Operations and Training Center. You can view all agendas and meeting minutes at www.cityofdubuque.org/humanrights.

Commissioner Breitfelder moved and Commissioner Borovic seconded to submit the Op-ed with the edits as discussed to the Telegraph Herald. Roll call:

Anthony Allen	Yes	Gerald Hammel	Yes
Nicole Borovic	Yes	Jay Schiesl	Yes
Adrienne Breitfelder	Yes		

Motion carried.

Identify Groups/Individuals to Contact as Possible Co-signers

Commissioners were supportive of having groups co-sign, but there was concern that having to wait to contact groups and wait for their responses would cause a considerable delay in the process. Consensus of the group was to send the Op-ed to the Telegraph Herald as soon as possible.

Suggested partners to reach out to: MFC; BMC; NAACP; Dream Center; Chief’s Forum; GDDC, Main Street, City Council; Dubuque Community Y; Steeple Square; Inclusive Dubuque; Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque; DACU; and Fountain of Youth.

It was suggested that they consider inviting those groups and anyone in the community who wants to be part of this dialogue to a forum or panel discussion. There was discussion about possibly linking the Race Conference or having a forum at the Juneteenth event in June. It was suggested they create a questionnaire to aid in facilitating the event. More discussion will take place at the May 13th meeting when the full commission is present.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Schiesl motioned and Commissioner Borovic seconded to adjourn. All in favor. The meeting ended at 4:45 p.m.

Minutes approved as submitted: _____

Minutes approved as corrected: _____