

**DUBUQUE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
May 13, 2019**

Commissioner Allen called the meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 4:40 p.m. on Monday, May 13, 2019, at the Jule Operations & Training Center, 949 Kerper Blvd., Dubuque, Iowa.

Roll Call:

Present: Anthony Allen, Chair
Nicole Borovic
Adrienne Breitfelder
Gerald Hammel

Miquel Jackson
Erin Muenster
Kate Parks

Absent: Jay Schiesl, Vice-Chair

Staff: Kelly Larson
Carol Spinoso

Approval of Minutes from April 8 and May 1, 2019

Motion by Hammel, second by Parks to approve the meeting minutes of April 8 and May 1, 2019. All in favor of accepting the meeting minutes as submitted.

Reports

Caseload Report

The April 2019 caseload report was received and filed.

Chairperson's Report

No report given.

Director's Report

Kelly distributed the quarterly Director's report covering January 1 – March 31, 2019.

Old Business

New Business

Appoint Primary and Alternate Representatives to the DCPRC

Commissioner Jackson served as primary, and past Commissioner Melchert was an alternate. The group meets on the third Thursday of every other even month at 5:30 p.m. at the MFC. Commissioner Parks moved and Commissioner Breitfelder seconded to reappoint Commissioner Jackson as primary Human Rights representative to the DCPRC. All in favor. An alternate will be appointed at the June meeting.

Discuss Event in Response to Last Month's Bias Incident

The letter to the editor appeared in the Monday, May 6, 2019 TH. Commissioners questioned whether there were any police updates. Kelly will contact Jeremy Jensen to get an update for next month's meeting.

Standing Items: Goals

Goal #1: Education

Commissioner Parks met with Nancy Bradley following a meeting last week, and Nancy wanted her to share with commissioners that she felt that the Commission's involvement in pushing for the Equity Coordinator position was significant in accomplishing that goal.

Goal #2: Housing

Alexis Steger, Housing and Community Development Director, will attend the August 12th meeting to provide additional information on SOI.

Ed Raber was not able to attend today’s meeting to provide an update on the progress of the True North initiative. Commissioner Allen will reconnect with Ed.

Goal #3: Employment – Councilmembers Larson and Rios on child care opportunities

Commissioner Breitfelder stated that one of the City Council’s priorities is to identify and research affordable child care in Dubuque, which aligns with one of the Commission’s goals looking at childcare accessibility and barriers to employment opportunities in the area. Councilmembers Larson and Rios were invited to provide more detail about that Council priority, provide information on where they are currently with that priority, and where they see that priority going in the next couple of years. Councilmember Larson distributed and reviewed some of the findings outlined in the Community Needs Assessment on Child Care that was conducted by Project Hope.

Councilmember Larson stated that Opportunity Dubuque began a pilot program this year to provide free childcare for participants in the certificate programs, which extends into the first year of employment following the completion of the program. Partners in this program have provided funding of \$400,000, with the City providing \$80,000. The program will serve 50 participants. The Community Development Advisory Commission discussed exploring how the City could support families that qualify for housing assistance but don’t qualify for DHS childcare assistance.

Councilmember Rios provided information on the private sector childcare providers. He indicated that there was a lack of communication between centers, that in-home providers are declining, and that there are barriers with paperwork and state regulations. He would like to see universal training for providers, as well as providing education on the food and other programs offered by the State. Councilmember Larson stated that she will share quarterly updates with commissioners.

Commissioner Jackson announced that the next expungement fair is scheduled for June 29, 2019.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Parks motioned and Commissioner Borovic seconded to adjourn. All in favor. The meeting ended at 5:40 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, June 10, 2019, at the Jule Operations & Training Center, 949 Kerper Blvd.

Minutes approved as submitted: _____

Minutes approved as corrected: _____