

**DUBUQUE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
April 13, 2020**

Commissioner Breitfelder called the virtual meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 4:35 p.m. on Monday, April 13, 2020.

Roll Call:

Present: Anthony Allen Miquel Jackson
 Adrienne Breitfelder Jason Keeler
 Michael Durnin Kathy McCarthy
 Mallory Gardiner Gerald Hammel

Absent: Ashley Regan

Staff: Kelly Larson Carol Spinoso
 Collins Eboh Temwa Phiri
 Shante Weston

Oath of Office

Approval of March 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Allen second by McCarthy to approve the meeting minutes of the March 7, 2020 goal setting session. All in favor. Motion by Durnin second by Hammel to approve the March 9, 2020 meeting minutes. All in favor.

Reports

Caseload Report

The March 2020 Caseload Report was received and filed.

Chairperson's Report

Commissioner Allen participated in a virtual meeting with staff from Emmaus Bible College discussing race in Dubuque. He will work on arranging a presentation prior to the end of the semester.

Director's Report

Kelly stated that the City Council has a scheduled work session on April 22nd at 6:30 for general updates and discussion on the financial impact of the virus on funding for the current fiscal year. On April 23rd the City Council will hold their final budget hearing for FY 21, hearing proposals from city staff in terms of how to balance the budget.

Old Business

New Business

COVID-19 Report

Kelly provided an update on how the Department's work has changed over the last month and where their efforts are focused. She has been working with the Housing & Community Development Director, Neighborhood Development Director, the United Way and the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque on assessing community needs related to housing and human services support in response to the pandemic. The Department has established an Equity Team that meets weekly working on outreach within the community and getting feedback on various community needs. There is a central location for people to find out about current human services available which is through the United Way at 211. Kelly stated that individuals should be directed to 211 with any human services or brain health issues.

The Department has been coordinating the translation of information and daily updates in both Spanish and Marshallese and getting that information out through various social media venues. They have been working with Housing on setting up quarantine shelters for individuals who are homeless and the immigrant and Marshallese populations who are living in congregate settings and are unable to isolate if they would experience symptoms of the virus.

Commissioners were invited to participate in the weekly Equity Immersion Team meetings. Staff will forward the sign-in information for those meetings.

Standing Items: Goals

Objective 1: Race in the Heartland Conference – Jackson, Breitfelder, Allen

Commissioner Jackson reported that the Planning Committee has not received the final financial statement from last year’s conference from Josh Jasper, so they are unsure of any remaining funds. He has a few speakers confirmed and is working with Derrick Dean from the US Department of Justice on securing Kim Gardner as a possible speaker. He has also confirmed speakers as it relates to employment and education. He spoke with Rose Timmons regarding the movie “Emanuel” which is about the Charleston shooting. He is working on organizing the next virtual planning meeting. IBM has expressed an interest in possibly sponsoring the conference.

Objective 2: Education – Durnin, Breitfelder, Gardiner

The group updated the objective adding action items, timeline dates and evidence of success. The timelines had been discussed prior to the pandemic, so they may need to reevaluate some of the timeline dates listed.

Objective 3: Housing – McCarthy, Keeler, Allen

They have shared documents but have been unable to collaborate at this point. In listening to concerns about how COVID-19 is affecting the community related to housing issues, it was suggested they create a one-page flyer which lists resources related to housing needs and issues for purposes of getting the word out. Temwa has identified spaces where flyers could be posted.

Objective 4: Employment – Breitfelder, Hammel

The group updated the action items, timelines, and evidence of successes. The timelines listed may also need to be adjusted due to the pandemic. Kelly added that Iowa Workforce Development has information on their website as it relates to unemployment issues and that Legal Aid is providing assistance on unemployment or any leave issues.

Breitfelder asked that Commissioners review the objectives and come to the May meeting prepared to discuss ideas on specific actions to take within these objectives.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Hammel motioned and Commissioner Durnin seconded to adjourn. All in favor. The meeting ended at 5:36 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, May 11, 2020.

Minutes approved as submitted: _____

Minutes approved as corrected: _____