

**DUBUQUE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
January 11, 2021**

Commissioner Allen called the virtual meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 4:33 p.m. on Monday, January 11, 2021.

Roll Call: Anthony Allen Miquel Jackson
Present: Michael Durnin Kathy McCarthy
Mallory Gardiner Jerry Hammel

Absent Ashley Regan

Staff: Kelly Larson Carol Spinoso

Approval of December 14, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Hamel second by McCarthy to approve the meeting minutes of December 14, 2020 as submitted. All in favor.

Reports

Caseload Report

The December 2020 Caseload Report was received and filed.

Chairperson's Report

Commissioner Allen announced that the 2021 Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Breakfast Celebration this year will be a live broadcast held on Monday, January 18, 2021 from 7:30 - 8:30 am. The live broadcast will be hosted by Rev. Tim Bees and he will be interviewing past Ruby Sutton Award recipients: Anthony Allen, Ernest Jackson, Kelly Larson, Donna Loewen, Ernestine Moss and Kate Zanger. Their discussion will focus on their favorite Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. quote and the impact it has on their views regarding current events. Sunday's tribute will also be held virtually at 1:00 p.m.

Director's Report

A written report was submitted. The report contains projects and activities that have been laid out for FY2021. The plan is based on a combination of the work they are doing on equity plans within departments, the things identified through the BLM work session and subsequent conversations with community members, and council goals.

Old Business

New Business

Discuss Commissioner's Regan's Absences from Meetings and Activities

Concerns were voiced over Commissioner Regan's nonattendance at regular monthly meetings. Regan had attended only two of the eleven meetings in 2020. Leadership had reached out to Regan without a response. After review of the guidelines in the Ordinance, Commissioner Jackson moved to authorize the Chair to send a letter to the City Council requesting removal/replacement of Commissioner Regan. Commissioner Hamel seconded. Roll call:

Anthony Allen Yes Miquel Jackson Yes

Michael Durnin	Yes	Kathy McCarthy	Yes
Mallory Gardiner	Yes	Jerry Hammel	Yes

Motion carried. The Chair will prepare and submit a letter to staff who will forward to commissioners, and then on to the City Council.

Standing Items: Goals

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

Nothing new to report.

Objective 2: Education – Durnin, Gardiner

The committee is planning to meet via Zoom with the Educational Justice group. This group is looking into a variety of equity issues within the Dubuque Community Schools. They hope to invite a member to provide an overview at a future meeting.

Commissioner McCarthy stated that at tonight's 5:30 p.m. School Board meeting they will be discussing the return of in-person learning.

Objective 3: Housing – McCarthy, Allen

COVID continues to alter the ability to plan any actions on goals. The group will sit down with Alexis Steger to discuss offering support to the Housing Commission. The Equity Poverty Prevention Plan will be presented during a Council work session this evening at 6:30 p.m. The Chair encouraged commissioners to attend.

Objective 4: Employment – Hammel, Regan

No update. Hammel reported that most of the action items involve direct community involvement and with COVID it has been a challenge. He will try to proceed with possibly meeting with community members through Zoom.

Adjournment:

Durnin motioned, and Hamel seconded to adjourn. All in favor. The meeting ended at 5:16 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, February 8, 2021.

Minutes approved as submitted: _____

Minutes approved as corrected: _____