

**DUBUQUE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
April 12, 2021**

Commissioner Durnin called the virtual meeting of the Dubuque Human Rights Commission to order at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, April 12, 2021.

Roll Call:

Present:	Carla Anderson Michael Durnin Klanea Evans	Mallory Gardiner Kathy McCarthy Taylor Merfeld
Absent	Pamela Birch	Miquel Jackson
Staff:	Kelly Larson	Carol Spinoso

Oath of Office

Commissioner Durnin administered the Oath of Office to Commissioners Anderson, Evans, and Merfeld.

Commissioner Gardiner moved and Commissioner McCarthy seconded to reorder the April 12th meeting agenda to move Election off Officers to the beginning. All in favor.

Election of Officers

Chairperson:

Durnin nominated Gardiner. Seconded by Anderson. Roll call:

Carla Anderson	Yes	Mallory Gardiner	Yes
Michael Durnin	Yes	Kathy McCarthy	Yes
Klanea Evans	Yes	Taylor Merfeld	Yes

All in favor of appointing Commissioner Gardiner as Chairperson.

Vice-Chairperson:

Nomination of Anderson. Seconded by McCarthy. Roll call:

Carla Anderson	Yes	Mallory Gardiner	Yes
Michael Durnin	Yes	Kathy McCarthy	Yes
Klanea Evans	Yes	Taylor Merfeld	Yes

All in favor of appointing Commissioner Anderson as Vice-Chairperson.

Approval of March 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Durnin second by McCarthy to approve the meeting minutes of March 8, 2021 as submitted. All in favor.

Reports

Caseload Report

The March 2021 Caseload Report was received and filed.

Chairperson's Report

Director’s Report

Kelly congratulated Community Engagement Coordinator Temwa Phiri, Human Rights Commissioner/Loras Student Mallory Gardiner, and Loras College student Emma Earls on being awarded a 2021 Community Collaboration Engagement Campus Award from Iowa and Minnesota Campus Compact. The City of Dubuque has collaborated with the Loras College Civil Leaders to develop training materials for students in that program to educate about issues related to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Old Business

Schedule Annual Goal Setting Session

Possible Monday and Saturday dates were discussed. Gardiner will send a Doodle Poll to determine commissioner availability.

New Business

COVID-19 Vaccination Update

Kelly reported that there is concern about inequity in vaccine access and distribution along with concern about historical racism and discrimination that is causing a lot of fear and lack of trust in pursuing the vaccine. Representatives from the Latino Empowerment and Development hosted an on-line panel event to provide information and answer questions related to the vaccine. Staff is working on arranging two more panels for the end of April to address specific concerns facing the black population in the community.

Discuss Communication from Tri-State Coalition Against Human Trafficking and Slavery

This group is raising awareness of human trafficking by giving presentations at public sponsored events, and training which included 70 Jule bus drivers. The Coalition is seeking financial donations to purchase a bus wrap. Durnin moved to donate \$150 to the Tri-State Coalition Against Human Trafficking and Slavery to be used toward the bus wrap. McCarthy seconded. Roll call:

Carla Anderson	Yes	Mallory Gardiner	Yes
Michael Durnin	Yes	Kathy McCarthy	Yes
Klanea Evans	Yes	Taylor Merfeld	Yes

Motion carried.

Standing Items: Goals

Objective 1: Race in the Heartland Conference – Jackson

Objective 2: Education – Durnin, Gardiner

Objective 3: Housing – McCarthy

Objective 4: Employment – Birch

Adjournment:

Anderson motioned, and Durnin seconded to adjourn. All in favor. The meeting ended at 5:38 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, May 10, 2021.

Minutes approved as submitted:_____

Minutes approved as corrected:_____