

Decorah Human Rights Commission Meeting Notes

September 12th, 2017 -- NO QUORUM PRESENT (informal meeting/conversation)

Members Present: Kathryn Thompson, Amalia Vagts, Carol Hemesath, Chad Bird

Absent: Lorraine Borowski, Brent Parker, Elizabeth Kane

Guests: Melissa Koch

Meeting called to order at 5:36 by Amalia

- 1) Motion to approve minutes was delayed until we have a quorum in October.
- 2) Iowa Civil Rights Commission offered their cooperative agreement. The discussion mentioned that this is simply an option if something were to seem out of our league. We do not have to use this option, but it is available if we sign the agreement and pay \$25 fee (for the year).
- 3) Amalia asked for any updates from the community.
 - a) Kathryn mentioned continued conversations around training for professionals who work in service or people-oriented professions in town. Melissa mentioned that there was a human trafficking conference in town. The person was from Iowa Government Association - maybe we want to loop in with them for when they come here to do training.
 - b) Melissa is going to follow up with Brent on diversity/bias training for the police force. She has been chatting with Chief Nixon and he is open to it, but now it may be time to encourage this happens sometime.
 - c) Chad mentioned that the new Luther liaison, Jeoffery Dyck, to the city council wants to increase lighting near campus. This pertains to sexual assault and potential to make the paths to and from campus more safe.
- 4) Amalia asked if there were any conversations in the community after we passed the Friendship not Fear statement last year. It doesn't seem that there have been conversations.
- 5) Upcoming events?
 - a) Iowa Civil Rights Conference - Amalia is hoping to go.
 - b) OWL based programming for adults and kids in the community. Seemed that they were happening in the evenings at the schools.
- 6) Also conversations wrapped up around the Pride Flag situation from last spring. Discussions ensued around remembering how important it is to hear and seek out the voices of those we are

representing. This will be especially important as we move forward with a racially homogenous commission.

7) Planning for fall event--- November 1st in the evening. Tentatively 7pm. A few short videos to introduce implicit bias. Afterward, there would be an open discussion.

- a) We will need to split up and conquer a few different parts to make this work:
 - i) Videos and Discussion prep (Kathryn and Melissa): look for videos and then we should decide on these as a commission, also prep discussion questions
 - ii) Logistics (Carol): working with library and prep
 - iii) Communication and Outreach (Brent and Elizabeth): getting the word out and also doing specific recruitment of local business owners, school personnel, etc.

iv) Can all others pick one of these three to help out with?

8) Next meeting to be held on Tuesday, October 3rd, 2017, 5:30 pm.

9) There will be three spots for the commission coming to term in February: Lorraine, Amalia, and the spot that is currently open.

Meeting parted at 6:18pm.