

**Minutes**  
**Decorah Human Rights Commission Meeting**  
**City Hall, 400 Claiborne Drive**

**Tuesday, June 5, 2018, 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm**

Present: Brent Parker, Elizabeth Kane, Melissa Koch, Tiffany Macklin, Carol Hemesath, Lisa Scott via phone

Members Absent: Kathryn Thompson, Chad Bird

The Decorah Human Rights Commission's mission is to:

- increase community awareness and appreciation of human diversity through educational programs,
- investigate claims of discriminatory practices, and
- provide appropriate remedies where discrimination has been found to exist.

1. Call to Order –Meeting was called to order at 5:45pm.
2. Welcome
3. Approval of Meeting Notes from May meeting: Carol motioned, Tiffany 2<sup>nd</sup>, Motion passed
4. Approval of June Agenda : Melissa added two agenda items to New Business
  1. Confederate Flags
  2. An invitation from IA State ExtensionCarol motioned the approval of the agenda, Tiffany 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion approved.
5. Community Comment -none
6. Old Business
  - a. Reflections on Pride event: Carol wondered if next year Pride Memorabilia could be for sale, Melissa brought the newspaper and the support they gave in the paper.
  - b. Decorah's flag policy update (Chad): none, as Chad was not present
  - c. Sister City update: nothing to report as Tiffany and Brent were unable to attend the April 26th meeting. They will contact Andy Carolson regarding when another meeting has been scheduled.
  - d. DHRC information update: Brochure (target audience: Decorah community) and Flowchart (target audience: Commission members) (Tiffany)

Tiffany reported that she and Melissa had met with Amy Courtney, the graphics design teacher at the HS. She will be working on both the brochure and the flow chart over the summer.

- e. Funding sources for anti-bias training for police department (Elizabeth) Elizabeth stated the Arlin Falck foundation grant applications are not available until August. The Community Foundation grant applications will be available in Dec/Jan.
- f. Summer & Fall meeting schedule: Next meeting will be September 4<sup>th</sup> and will be the first Tuesday of the month. Will consider a need for a meeting in December and January.

## 7. New Business

- a. Update on Luther College incidents (Lisa): Lisa tried to give an update regarding the incidents at Luther, however the phone reception was very poor on our end.

Discussion of how DHRC can best support Luther College staff and students

- b. Summary of brainstorming session with four Luther students on how DHRC can best support students (Melissa)

- 1. It was identified that only 1 student knew the Human Rights Commission existed.

- 1. The idea of having an information table outside the cafeteria/in the Union might be of help to inform the Luther Community
    - 2. Normalizing people of color: students feel this needs to be directed more towards business owners and Police
    - 3. Luther Students don't feel like they have a "say/voice" within the community
    - 4. Discussed the Origins of Luther/The Jewel of the Midwest
    - 5. Students discussed the desire for more connection with the community, maybe a program like PALS, but instead of with children, with adults, wanting to be invited to community events, those not on Luther Campus, maybe the community hosting a Heritage event/potlucks/festival

- c. Planning Education Programs & Events for 2018-did not discuss

- i. Review brainstormed list of education and event ideas from March 20, 2018:did not discuss
    - ii. Discuss DHRC members' specific interests and opportunities did not discuss

- 8. Adjourn: 7:00pm Motion by Melissa, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carol. Motion passed.

Next meeting September 4<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm