

Decorah Human Rights Commission Meeting Notes - October 2, 2018

Members Present: Kathryn Thompson, Tiffany Macklin, Melissa Koch, Carol Hemesath, Chad Bird, Brent Parker, Lisa Scott

Members Absent: Elizabeth Kane

Guests Present: Michelle

Official meeting called to order at 5:36 p.m. by Melissa Koch.

1. Approval of Meeting Notes from June meeting
 - a. Motion to approve by Carol. Lisa seconded.
2. Approval of October Agenda
3. Community Comment
4. Old Business
 - a. Decorah's flag policy update (Chad)
 - i. Chad went over the policy that was updated in May 2017; he passed out a new handout of the policy that has a draft of new language. There is a new section in the policy that was added titled "Community-oriented and special interest flags" that outlines the new procedures.
 - ii. DHRC members are asked to look over the new language and provide feedback. We will make a recommendation at a future meeting for the council to re-approve the amended flag policy.
 - b. Sister City update (Tiffany & Brent)
 - i. No update at this time.
 - c. DHRC brochure distribution (Melissa)
 - i. Melissa pointed out that we forgot to include contact information on the brochure. Brent is going to look into getting these re-printed with the following information:
 1. city manager, city hall phone number (563) 382-3651, website address (<https://www.decorahia.org/>), and the address of city hall (400 Claiborne Dr.)
5. New Business
 - a. Discussion and possible action on the FY18 Cooperative Agreement with the Iowa Civil Rights Commission
 - i. Carol motions to approve. Lisa seconds. Melissa will sign and turn this in.
 - b. Discuss recent anti-semitic graffiti on Spectrum's Network sign

- i. Chad updated us on the police process with this. The person was recorded on camera, and they are waiting for the camera person to return to go through the footage. The offense would be considered a criminal mischief. Spectrum would need to press charges.
 - 1. Lisa discussed that Luther has waded through the language associated with crimes, specifically “hate crimes.” She emphasized that education about terms and definitions has been important at Luther’s campus.
 - 2. In the future, we would like to have conversations about how we can educate our young people more about terms and definitions.
- c. Plan Ethnic Arts/Heritage Festival: Decorah and Luther College event
 - i. Lisa talked about the fact that the Ethnic Arts festival was heavily attended by Decorah residents last year. She also mentioned that Luther has a strategic plan to include more collaboration between the town and college, especially with getting the college students into town creating relationships. Lisa had some ideas about how to foster this with the Ethnic Arts Festival this year in March. Guest from Luther College, Michelle, also discussed how the Ethnic Arts festival has gone in the past few years. The commission talked about more possibilities. Lisa will get back to us as they have more information.

Tabled for next time:

- 6. Plan Education Programs & Events for 2018-2019, including anti-bias education
 - i. Review brainstormed list of education and event ideas
 - ii. Discuss the idea raised in September 5 informal DHRC meeting to have a community expert/leader in each of the five (housing, services and accommodation, education, finance, employment) areas DHRC is responsible for come to meetings to discuss and share issues. Have extra time and make it an event for the public.
 - iii. Discuss DHRC members’ specific interests and opportunities

Meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Next meeting is November 6th at 5:30 p.m.