

## Decorah Human Rights Commission Meeting Notes - 2/5/2019

Members Present: Melissa Koch, Tiffany Macklin, Lisa Scott

Members Absent: Chad Bird, Carol Hemesath, Brent Parker

Guests Present: Hannah Breckbill, Roman Lechuga

The Meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Melissa Koch.

With three commission members present, we did not have a quorum.

1. Approval of Meeting Notes from January Meeting.
2. Approval of February Agenda. Motion to approve by Tiffany and seconded by Melissa.
3. Tiffany agreed to take notes.
4. Community Comment: Welcomed visitors, Hannah Breckbill and Roman Lechuga. They are both considering joining the DHRC.

Both talked about their interest in the DHRC

- i. Roman - Has been in Decorah with his family for 2 years. Wants to make connections within the community, is committed to Social Justice work and the importance sharing of stories.
- ii. Hannah- Has been living in Decorah for 8 years. Her focus is on Land Access and Economic shifts for Reparative Justice.
- iii. Andrew Eillingson is an Elementary School teacher and is also interested in joining the DHRC. Andrew was not able to attend tonight's meeting.

Hannah asked about the meeting with Bill Quakenbush scheduled for March 2nd as stated on the Agenda.

5. Ethnic Arts Festival

Ho-Chunk Nation Leader, Bill Quakenbush, will be presenting at the Ethnic Arts Festival to be held on Saturday, March 2nd at Luther College. Following this event, he has agreed to meet and have dinner with the DHRC and others on March 2nd to discuss approaches to lifting the voice of Indigenous culture in the Decorah area. Watch for an Evite from Melissa.

6. Old Business

Winneshiek County Community Foundation and Depot grants submitted. Melissa will be presenting to the Depot on April 9th.

Update from Elizabeth Kane on Housing via Melissa

- i. Elizabeth reported that there was not much of a response and they told her that they have not had any discrimination issues.
- c. Led to a discussion of goals with visitors from Housing, Employment, Services and Accommodations, Banking (Credit), and Education. Brainstormed

about what our main goal is for meeting with the members of various local agencies.

i. Some important questions came up.

1. What do they do?
2. How do they deal with issues of bias?
3. How is equity built into the process?
4. Are there any government agencies involved?
5. How could DHRC help?
6. Why is there no/limited public transportation in town and between neighboring towns? Seems like this could address employment issues (e.g. Decorah needs more employees)
7. Who does the growth of Decorah serve?
8. How do these agencies use their social responsibility?

ii. Also discussed events the city / DHRC could promote

1. MLK
2. Women's month
3. Cinco de Mayo
4. Others

iii. And other actions DHRC could take: Providing list of diverse children's books that Decorah Public Library could acquire.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:30