

## DHRC Meeting Notes -3/5/2019

Members Present: Melissa Koch, Tiffany Macklin, Carol Hemesath

Guests Present: Roman Lechuga

The Meeting was called to order at 5:42 p.m.

With three members present, we did not have a quorum

### 1. Extending the reach of the DHRC

a. The Commission discussed municipality limitations with regards to having the ability to represent members of the community that live outside of city limits.

1. What would it take to include all of Decorah?

2. The Commission could become countywide

b. The Commission also discussed that it doesn't have enough guidance to investigate discrimination claims. Other municipalities either have a civil rights lawyer on staff, other employed professionals with experience, or if they all are volunteer, they send complaints to the Iowa Civil Rights Commission.

c. A Civil Rights lawyer could be beneficial for the Commission

i. What would make one needed?

ii. Possible Civil Rights lawyer in town?

iii. Could the Iowa Civil Rights Commission lend a lawyer as needed?

d. Talk to Iowa Civil Rights Commission about the scope of their representation

e. Talk with neighboring Commissions about their process (Grinnell and Mason City)

F. The Commission also discussed that the geographical limitations also restrict who can be on the Commission: They must live within the city boundary.

### 2. Thoughts from Bill Quakenbush

a. Oneota is a period of time, not a people.

b. Water is one of the most important civil rights issues. Ho-chunk work to have clean water for 7 generations into the future. We could work to do the same to honor their time here.

c. He shared the importance of letting the land heal

d. He will return to Decorah to meet with Luther College and the Commission.

3. Commission also discussed where to focus efforts in 2019. Many liked the idea of diverse books in the library, but no real vote taken on the following suggestions since we did not have quorum:

- i. Implicit bias workshops for Decorah businesses, or
- ii. Diversity Events -- MLK, Women's Month, Cinco de Mayo, others
- iii. Diversity Books at Decorah Public Library
- iv. Other?

Meeting Adjourned at 6:30 pm.