

**Decorah Human Rights Commission Meeting  
Zoom**

**Tuesday, March 2, 2021, 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm**

**Members in Attendance:** Melissa Koch, Ben Krouse-Gagne, Maria Leitz, Sandhya Purohit Canton, Siri Stevens, Rowan Collins, Andrew Ellingsen

**Guests:** Sharlene Bohr, Vanalika Nagarwall

**Call to Order & Welcome - Melissa at 5:33**

**Approval of Meeting Notes from February Meeting**

Ben motions and Sandhya seconds. Approved unanimously.

**Approval of March Agenda**

Ben motions and Sandya seconds. Approved unanimously.

1. Decorah newspaper article
  - Siri, Sandhya, and Melissa volunteered to be quoted for an article in the Decorah newspaper.
  - The DHRC wrote a statement explaining the All Are Welcome stickers and role of the DHRC. It was shared with the Chamber and Decorah newspaper.
2. All Are Welcome sticker
  - All Chamber members received the All Are Welcome statement
  - Melissa dropped off stickers and agreement letters at the Chamber office for Chamber members.
  - When the weather warms up we can distribute more AAW stickers to missed businesses.
3. Visitor Vanalika introduced herself.
4. City Manager, Chad Bird, is leaving Decorah.
5. Melissa asked the DHRC whether they should continue with the visioning workshop planning or take a step back and look at other options for the policy revision process.
  - a. Due to the Covid pandemic it is a challenging time to ask others to commit to change and action.
  - b. All members agreed to change course

- c. Possibly having a temporary policy and approach for how to handle human rights complaints
- d. DHRC needs to review its mission statement as well to correspond with the revised investigation policy.
- e. Melissa will send a summary of what revised policies other communities have created and suggestions
- f. DHRC will review and discuss then share recommendations with the stakeholders: Mayor, City Manager, etc.

**Meeting Adjourned at 6:20 pm**