

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

Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

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.

Call to Order & Welcome

We called meeting to order at 6:38pm on Zoom.

Approval of Meeting Notes from February Meeting

- Maria moved to approve the minutes; Josh seconded. Everyone agreed.

Approval of March Agenda

- Melissa adds another item to today's agenda: naming officers.
- Maria moved to approve the agenda; Josh seconded. Everyone approved.

Community Comment

No community members present at our meeting

Old Business

- Maria gives an update on a situation regarding person B and her mother. Both Melissa and Maria offered support. Situation resolved amicably, and B expressed gratitude for DHRC support.
- Finalize annual report - we reviewed Melissa's draft of our annual report. During this discussion, we nominated and approved the following officers to serve in 2022:
 - Melissa will continue on as Chair.
 - Sandhya will serve as Vice Chair.
 - Siri will serve as official Secretary.

We read through the summary, and endorsed Melissa's description of the work we did in 2021. Maria moved, Josh seconded, and we all approved the Annual Report to be delivered to the City Council on March 21, 2022.

- We reviewed and discussed the Explanatory Statement for protected statuses, with relation to the chart prepared by City lawyer, John Anderson. Maria moved to approve it, Melissa seconded and we all agreed.
- We appreciated the work that Josh and Maria put into the list. It is a work in process.

[Maria left the meeting early at 7:15pm.]

- Discussion of the Summary of Changes as drafted by Sandhya and reviewing the proposed Revised Ordinance, as finalized by Melissa and John.
- We agreed to submit the Summary of Changes for review by John after Sandhya & Melissa rewrite a few sentences.

[Sandhya's zoom and internet crashed, but she was able to rejoin the meeting via telephone.]

- Melissa moved to approve Ordinance, the Summary, and the Explanatory Statement and Chart, as ready for submission to the City Council, with the understanding that John will clean up. Sandhya seconded, and Siri and Josh approved.

New Business

- Prepare for presentation to City Council - try to attend Monday, March 21, 2022, 5: 45pm meeting in City Hall. Melissa will send reminder email(s).
- New projects - out of time; we will discuss in a future meeting

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting called to a close at 7:46 PM by Melissa Koch

Meeting minutes recorded and reviewed by Sandhya.