

MEETING MINUTES
Decorah Human Rights Commission Meeting
Decorah Public Library Meeting Room
202 Winnebago Street

To join the meeting via Zoom
<https://nicc.zoom.us/j/4966489551>
Meeting ID: 496 648 9551

Tuesday, January 2, 2024, 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm

The Decorah Human Rights Commission's mission is to increase community awareness and appreciation of human diversity through educational programs, and to provide appropriate remedies where discrimination has been identified.

Call to Order & Welcome

Josh call to order at 5:35, Maria seconds

Approval of Meeting Notes from December Meeting

Maria motions to approve, Josh seconds

Approval of January Agenda

Josh motions to approve, Dakota seconds

Community Comment

Old Business

- Finalizing officer positions
 - Sandhya stays as VP, Josh as Chair, send minutes to the city
- Planning next *Language Matters* events for 2024.
 - Logistics for *Disability & Ableism* led by Nikki & Maria
 - Josh: Affordable Housing Event Updates
 - Martin Refsal can't commit to an event.
 - Decorah Pride Action Goals
 - Onelowa training with Chamber of Commerce

- LGBT+ elder population
 - Graffiti Event
 - Inviting new DHRC members
 - 2 positions open
 - Nikki has someone to ask
 - Josh has 3 connections at Luther
 - Maria can ask Felecia

New Business

- Reflection of 2023 and goals for 2024
 - Reflection 2023
 - Nikki and Dakota joined us
 - Pronoun Meeting, ACLU Legislative Updates, Met with Pride, Tabled at Pride and Culture Fest, attended MLK event at Luther College as part of panel, attended Housing Conversation, attended panel on Trans Youth Voices, Plessy vs. Ferguson event at NEI Peace and Justice Center
 - Maria: Pacing felt good, felt like we could do more, want to make sure that people know that we are here so that we can be invited to participate more
 - Josh: Liked event leadership breakdown
 - Goals for 2024:
 - Inviting Travis to a meeting (Josh can invite him)
 - Ask him how to collaborate with whoever he suggests
 - Event: Logistics for *Disability & Ableism* led by Nikki & Maria (paused for now)
 - Event: Affordable Housing
 - Maria: There was a panel about this, but was led more by banks and realtors. Need to find the reasoning why, then can come up with solutions from there (Decorah is not the only one with this issue)
 - Dakota: Affordable housing shortage - a lot of that boils down to a shortage - construction of affordable housing is not happening
 - Construction by airport - but not accessible in terms of transportation.
 - Zoning is also an issue. In Postville this was an issue because of lack of parking. Minimum parking requirements make it so that buildings can't be close

together. More public transportation is needed in the U.S.

- NIMBY attitudes housing downtown doesn't fit character. As Nikki said, this is a dog whistle
- Maria: New school building might also change traffic downtown
- Nikki: Maybe we talk to DecorahNews.Com and see if they have any plans with moving forward with Affordable Housing Events. See if we can collaborate and they put in the work for events. We also need to be more educated about these kinds of things so if someone asks for help we know what we need to do. Also important to get our faces out there so they know we are paying attention
- Dakota: Interested in Housing - can take charge of this
- Frontrunner: LGBT conversation Backburner: Housing

Action Items

LGBT:

- Josh reaching out to Decorah Pride, Chamber, and Onelowa

Housing

- Dakota reaching out to Virtus (previous owner of Dakota's house) and works at Decorah News

Pamphlets and Flyers

- Nikki reaching out to Andrew about getting more materials, printing items

Travis

- Maria starting document of questions to ask

Meeting Adjourned

Josh motions to adjourn, Maria seconds