

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96425142792?pwd=a0RiOEI5bIFUa091VWFISnZ6WVU2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 964 2514 2792

Passcode: 745831

Tuesday, September 6, 2022, 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

Call to order: 5:35 PM

Members in attendance: Melissa Koch, Josh Ratel-Khan, Maria Leitz, Dr. Ashley Benson, Sandhya Purohit Caton
Introductions of all present.

Approval of Meeting Notes from May Meeting

Maria motion to approve notes, Josh seconds

Approval of September Agenda

Josh motion to approve notes

Community Comment

- Melissa: Overview of history of community comment. In the past, not many community members came to meetings. We began inviting community members to come to meetings to share their experiences living in Decorah. DHRC created a brochure and continues to invite community members to meetings so that more people know DHRC exists and what we do.

Old Business

- New members
 - Ashley Benson - responded and came to the meeting. Three others have expressed interest - Charlie, Piper, and Dr. Robert Clay
 - Goal to have people fill out applications in a month
 - Typically meet at 5:30 the first Tuesday of the month. Can discuss if another date or time would work better
- Updates and feedback on Summer Projects
 - Melissa and Sandhya - website, brochure, and list of resources
 - Sandhya working on having revisions sent prior to October meeting for review
 - Melissa - Resources
 - Resources for policy - specific places you could go to from each of the 5 areas of the commission that you could go to in case of discrimination
 - Resources currently in document are not specific to people who help with discrimination
 - Resources vs. Resources specific to helping with discrimination
 - Now seeing two lists - one list of resources for help around human rights vs. one that is just specific to discrimination
 - Plan to separate list - work on it before we meet again
 - Maria - Housing
 - Decorah has a contact person for housing. Found information for who you go to and what the contacts are
 - Winneshiek County and Housing specific housing resources
 - Josh - LGBT Community
 - NEIPJC - LGBT Building Community Bridges events
 - - Calling resources and seeing if they would be able to help with discrimination -
 - Housing
 - Stephanie Fromm, Executive Director - move to credit. Call her and see what resources she has?
 - Education
 - Luther College has a bias response team - anyone staff, faculty, or student can fill out the form
 - Next step - divide the list and check with all the resources to see if they belong and if they want to be listed

- Coming up with a group pitch. Josh will do the first draft and send it out to everyone
 - Maria calling housing resources and educational resources
 - Melissa calling other 3
- Next meeting
 - Have resources list (Maria and Melissa)
 - Brochure and website revisions (Sandhya)
- Other comments
 - Decorah Police has bias incident reporting form - what is the status of this?
 - Ashley: What about mental health resources for DEI/Discrimination in the community?
 - Maria: Put under accommodations for services?
 - Melissa: NEI Action, Riverview
 - Ashley: Making sure people know where they can go and who they can talk to when they have had experiences in the community. It can be traumatizing if don't have person to talk through these things with.
 - Could be mental health related/ or a space for someone to talk through about the incident
 - Maria: CARE wants to create social gatherings
 - Sandhya: theoretically, DHRC is another resource as well as Northeast Iowa Peace and Justice Center
 - Luther has restorative justice - potentially could train members of the community?

New Business

- Planning Education Programs for 2023
 - Pronouns
 - Anti-Bias trainings
 - Banned books (collab with library), critical race theory
 - Equal Rights Amendment
 - K-12 - after school events - puzzles, games, a story read to expose to other cultural or education on MLK, indigenous education
 - IDI training
 - Education on discrimination categories that DHRC covers - how to file complaint

- White awake - indigenous roots
- Immigration & racism

Meeting Adjourned Melissa call to adjourn at 6:55 PM