

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Decorah Human Rights Commission Meeting**  
**City Hall, 400 Claiborne Drive**

**Tuesday, March 7, 2023, 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 at 5:35 PM

**Approval of Meeting Notes from February Meeting**

Maria motions to approve, Josh seconds

**Approval of March Agenda**

Dakota motions to approve, Maria seconds

**Community Comment**

- **Maria:** Anne Mansfield from Decorah Sustainability Commission (DSC) talked to Melissa a year and a half ago about what DHRC was doing and how their commission could help. One of the sub-commission of the DSC is the culture/inclusive sustainability commission and they were focusing on housing and education. They were wondering if the DHRC is still promoting this and how they can support us. Maria said they could talk to Melissa but that the police had done some of this work in the past and DHRC members went to the Decorah Building Bridges event, but our educational goal this year is "Naming Language" series. She is wondering if they came to our meeting in April or May to hear what we are doing and learn about what they are doing and identify collaboration/partnership possibilities to see where we overlap in mission so that we can work together.

- All in agreement to invite them to the April meeting and to work on a collaborative project.
- Anne would prefer to meet via Zoom as well. @Melissa - can you arrange to make sure there is a Zoom option for this month's meeting?
  - Maria is going to facilitate this and invite them for Tuesday, April 4th at 5:30 PM
- **Josh:** Drag show this Saturday at 7 PM at T-Bock's
  - Maria: Is there much talk about Iowa limiting Drag Shows
- **Sandhya:** Library holding event: <https://www.decorahlibrary.org/event-directory/dpl-annual-celebration-and-conversation>
  - There is now a waitlist to sign up
- **Nikki:** Event: March 22nd at 6 PM at the Lingonberry - CARE dance

### Old Business

- Pronoun event planning and publicity for Wednesday, March 29 @ Decorah Public Library
  - How are we promoting the event?: Library promoting event, NEIPJC also promoting
  - Josh sending graphics to Maria (sharing with Carolyn, Felicia, Dr. Clay and Sandhya (Interfaith Commission and Identity Studies) to promote event
  - We can print out some posters to put in the Co-Op and around Luther's campus
  - 3-4 dozen cookies - Melissa
  - Maria - getting bottled water and pencils
  - Josh buying name tags
  - Sandhya bringing sharpies for name tags
  - Maria/library can introduce Josh at the beginning of the presentation then plan to introduce DHRC board at the beginning
  - DHRC speakers thank Josh and foreshadow for future events at the end of the presentation

### New Business

- Naming Language series
  - "Language Matters" - Dakota motions, Josh seconds, all in favor
- Identifying future language series talks and champions
  - Melissa Champion: Historical Overview of Gender + Pronouns
  - Racialized Language
    - Maria interested if have other people with her
    - Sandhya interested in helping out

- Maybe see if a Black member of the community would be interested - maybe see if Dr. Clay wants to be apart of it or knows someone who might want to join us
  - 2023- events this year about the 40th anniversary of the Asian American Student Association -Brian Caton advisor.  
We can reach out and see about guests who are coming
- Josh interested in the way people talk about “whiteness” and how it is a social construction
- Rape Culture + Language
- Freedom of Speech - Legal part of it
  - Or how we use language to advocate for our children
  - Dakota championing this event
- Language when talking about houseless people/precarious housing
  - How this impacts children - legal ramifications
- Ableist language
- Book banning
  - Jordyn Moore could possibly do event about this

## **Meeting Adjourned**

Sandhya motions to adjourn, Josh seconds