

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

To join the meeting via Zoom

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

Meeting ID: 964 2514 2792

Passcode: 745831

Tuesday, May 2, 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 5:38 and introductions to Bri from Sustainability Commission

Approval of Meeting Notes from March Meeting

Josh motions to approve, Maria seconds

Approval of May Agenda

Josh motions to approve

Community Comment

Old Business

- Debrief on *Understanding Personal Pronouns* event, first in *Language Matters* series
 - Folks are interested in another event. Potential for another event maybe targeted to young people or educators in how to create a safe environment. Maybe during the summer when there is no school? Melissa is meeting with the middle school principal - can plug a potential professional development event from the DHRC with them.

- Maria can potentially reach out to the high school principal for an event
 - We can all think about reaching out to k-12 teachers and administrators about potential events
- Synergies with Sustainability Commission

New Business

- Planning next *Language Matters* events for 2023, including ACLU-IA led events
 - Gender Inclusive Language
 - Melissa met with professor from Grinell
 - Grinell did history of the pronoun “they” - they are going to send resources
 - Iowa Legislation - ACLU - Part of *Language Matters* series
 - SF 482 - Bathroom Bill, gender care ban, education, eviction that intersects with gender and racial discrimination with housing, ban on critical race theory
 - Can speak to summary of the bill and why ACLU opposes them
 - She cannot provide any legal advice
 - ACLU has done Transgender and Reproductive Advocacy workshop
 - Becca, from the ACLU, will come to Decorah to give a talk. She is from Decorah and used to work at the Decorah library. We can see if the library is interested in doing this event.
 - Dakota can talk about what Becca cannot (he is attorney and can give legal advice) - so this event will be a collaboration between Dakota and the ACLU
 - Maria suggested that they can split up the speaking time 40 mins Becca/ 20 min Dakota - or whatever time divide seems appropriate for the both of them
 - Nikki is interested in how we talk to our representatives - what we do with the information we have learned about
 - **Dates: June 6 & 7**
 - Melissa: Going to go to the library to see if these days work and if they want to do a separate event. Yoga space above Impact is a back up event. Two events back to back: (1) Reproductive Rights (2) Laws that have been Passed
 - Josh: Maybe do a press release in the Newspaper about the events?
 - dakota.moore@ericksonlawia.com and Josh getting together to chat to come up with something

- Racial Language
 - Maria and Sandhya / Josh can help out a little bit
- Summer projects
 - *Language Matters Series*
 - Traditionally have not met June, July, and August
 - Maybe have an informal meeting of those who are involved. Meet at regular time.
- Annual report to the City Council
 - The reports are in writing and then they are presented at the City Council meeting. Anyone want to take on this as a summer project?
 - Last year's report is on Google Drive. mel@melissakoch.com is going to check to make sure they are in Google Drive.
 - Maria and Nikki interested in helping out with Melissa

Meeting Adjourned

Melissa motions to adjourn, Josh seconds