

**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, April 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**

**Approval of Meeting Notes from March Meeting**

**Approval of April Agenda**

**Community Comment:**

**Old Business**

**Action Items Check-In**

- Nikki:
  - Sticker updates
- Maria:
  - Mtg with Emily Neal
    - Said that there are a lot of people working toward housing, Travis (city manager) would be a good person to talk to as he knows more of the economic side of things. The mayor would also be helpful in helping us connect with other groups. Emily said that there are good things happening. Some zoning changes are happening - allowing for smaller lots and ADUs. Some developers are also making houses smaller which will help in the long-run. NGO around the Decorah area are good folks to talk to about housing for people looking for rentals, housing, etc.

- One thing they wanted to do - a resource library for rentals, education about knowing rental rights, educate the community about rental rights, how to make apartment prices less (utilities, rebates, talking to landlords etc.) Also an issue with month to month rentals and landlords raising prices and could kick them out.
    - If there are undocumented immigrants in Iowa - have the same rights as citizens as a tenant, but could also be reported by the landlord and deported.
      - Dakota is really interested in tenant law - know your rights event. Dakota can reach out to Emily to see if anyone wants to partner.
        - Could write up a newspaper article sharing this information?
      - Josh - could be an intersection with disabilities and ADA rights
    - Update with Nikki on gathering contact information for folks to help those in precarious housing situations, beginning with a flyer
      - Had trouble getting information
      - Josh put together a document - want to reach out to churches
      - Maria: Catholic Charities work with folks for housing
- Josh:
  - LGBT+ Nursing Home/Elder Care training updates
  - List of housing organizations
  - City council mtg update
  - Report back from Lydia X.Z. Brown presentation "Until We All Are Free: Disability Justice Interventions in Queer, Trans, Feminist Movement"
  -
- All
  - Recruitment efforts
  - Questions for Travis/the Mayor
    - Maria: Do we want an official meeting or casual meeting? Maybe more so targeted at Lorraine
  - Gaza Ceasefire Resolution - Julie Fischer

## **New Business**

- Educational efforts for housing
  - Tenant specific events - Know Your Rights but also telling landlords things they should not be doing - can also plug that Decorah has issue with Affordable Housing - here's resources, etc.
    - Dakota: Can also target short-term rentals

- Josh: Maybe do a series of events? Know Your Rights, Affordable Housing Panel, and some other type of event? Maybe one focused on disability ?
  - Would also be great to op-epds
  - Resources
    - Flyer at events - tenant bill of rights
    - Something to have on city website for renters - resources
- Structural changes for housing
  - Dakota: structural changes seem to be something that the city council is already aware of. OK with tabling this until we see what the city is doing.
- Upcoming Events:
  - AAPI Events at Luther:  
<https://www.luther.edu/news/celebrate-aapi-heritage-with-these-events-at-luther-college-in-april>
  - April 5th 6:30 - Considering Matthew Shepard:  
<https://www.luther.edu/event/nordic-choir-concert>
- Hearing more about folks interested in joining
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