

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

Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Call to Order & Welcome

Call to order at 5:35

Approval of Meeting Notes from January Meeting

Maria motions to approve, Melissa seconds

Approval of February Agenda

Melissa motions to approve, Maria seconds

Community Comment

Maria - DHRC was invited to Felicia DeJong's Racial Healing event. Maria and Melissa attended

Introductions of Dakota Moore and Nikki Battle, both applying to be on DHRC.

Old Business

- New members
- Pronoun event planning for March
 - Maria Questions
 - Time?: ~40 mins + Q&A Time
 - Ask if we could do 6-7:30 PM if not we understand. Maria is on the board of both organizations
 - Set up: Maybe have refreshments - can we bring cookies?
 - Need PowerPoint screen as well
 - Flow

- Need writing utensils (Maria bringing)
 - Print out genderbread person (30-50)
- Title: Understanding Personal Pronouns
- Brief description of the program
 - This event will cover the importance of pronouns, how to use them, what to do if you or another person makes a mistake, and more. This session will leave you feeling more confident in using pronouns and allow you to create an inclusive community.
- Short bio for you
 - Joshua Ratel-Khan (he/they) is a Communications Instructor at Northeast Iowa Community College. Josh is passionate about creating safe, welcoming, and inclusive communities to support diverse populations in rural Iowa.
- Gender Inclusive Language discussion - Melissa
 - Wants to bring into conversation changing language - stereotype threat - affect on women when focus is on their gender
 - Impact of not referring to women also has consequences: Women's bodies ignored in healthcare
- Brochures distributed

New Business

- Future education events
 - Ethnic Arts Festival
 - We discussed having a Language Series in 2023. Possible events include:
 - Gender Inclusive Language: Impact of language on women
 - Racialized Language
 - Rape Culture and Language
- Next meeting - Melissa will be out of town. We can meet on our own or we can schedule for a different day. We decided to keep the meeting on March 7th. Sandhya will lead.

Meeting Adjourned

Melissa motions to close, Josh seconds