

Decorah Human Rights Commission

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

5:30 p.m. City Hall

Members present: Amalia Vagts, Ginger Meyette; Joseph Kremer, Pedro Dos Santos, Carol Hemeseth.

Excuse: Lorraine Burkowski, Chad Bird

Visitors: Julie Fischer, Joanne Hagan, and Katherine Johnson in attendance to present for the Peace and Justice Center group Gun Sense. Lynda Sutherland, George Hagan attending as community members.

Lynda Sutherland offered to take notes for this meeting. Offer accepted.

1. Amalia called the meeting to order at 5:35, welcomed our visitors and went over the agenda. She stated that we need to meet 6x/year. Committee agreed to additional meetings on April 5; October 4.
2. Motion: To accept the slate of officers as described: Chair: Amalia Vagts; Vice-chair, Ginger Meyette; Secretary: Joseph Kremer. Motion by Carol, Ginger seconded, vote was unanimous.
3. Amalia invited guests to speak to the Committee. Joanne Hagan gave an update about the group's work and invited individuals to sign up for the list serve if they wish. Gun Sense people thanked the Commission and took their leave.
4. Committee discussed the Decorah Public Library as a good venue for events that the Decorah Human Rights Commission is involved with.
5. Discussion of possible Spotlight Events:
 - Transgender community/employment issues
 - Ongoing encouragement for trainings related to implicit bias for local businesses, community groups, city employees, etc.
 - Environmental issues - how is it impacting different groups of people? Could a Flint-type water issue happen here? Has it already?
6. Each commissioner will pick one spotlight to research and will bring a proposal to our next meeting. (Ginger – trans; Pedro – implicit bias; Joseph – environment/implicit bias)
7. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Notes by Lynda Sutherland, Acting Secretary, Joseph Kremer, Secretary, and Amalia Vagts, Chair.