

DAVENPORT CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING
April 10, 2018
Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 13, 2018

The Davenport Civil Rights Commission (DCRC) met at 12:00 pm, Tuesday, March 13, 2018 in the first-floor conference room at the Davenport City Hall. Commissioner Judy Shawver presided. A quorum was met.

Commissioners Present

Clyde Mayfield
Judy Shawver
Susie Greenwalt
Nicole Briebriesco-Ledger

Commissioners Absent

Helen Roberson

Other Person(s) Present

Devan Patel, QC Times
Rita Rawson, Council Liaison
Paul Macek, Attorney
Roy Birchard, Community Member
Maria Dickmann, Councilperson

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Susie Greenwalt, seconded by Nicole Briebriesco-Ledger. The agenda was approved by all commissioners present.

Approval of Minutes

Edit February meeting minutes to add missing attendees. Motion made by Susie Greenwalt, seconded by Clyde Mayfield. Minutes approved by all commissioners present.

Director's Report

- Update on the sexual harassment social media campaign.
- Update on housing case pending appeal.
- Director met with Human Resources to discuss racial harassment.
- Director and Housing Analyst conducted meetings to finalize planning for the QC Fair Housing Symposium.
- Advertisement of monthly events on web page and registration for the 50th Anniversary Symposium is active.
- Annual report is completed.
- State of Equity report is nearly complete.

Motion to accept the director's report made by Nicole Briebriesco-Ledger, seconded by Susie Greenwalt.

Case Status Report

- No "right to sue" letters issued in March 2018.

- Six discrimination cases settled with relief in the public interest.

New Business

None.

Old Business

E-0002-0001-15- Motion to proceed to public hearing made by Judy Shawver, seconded by Nicole Bribiesco-Ledger. Approved by all Commissioner's present.

Public Comment

Alderwoman Rawson questioned the placement of the closed session designation on the agenda. Rawson inquired about the case status report and status designations as well as new Commissioner onboarding documentation. Alderwoman Rawson stated that she would like to strengthen communication between the Commission and the Council.

- Also stated that several council members and staff members at Public Works have strong concerns with the way that training was provided. Expressed concerns that staff was not receptive to Effective Communication training and suggested that it be altered to make the staff more comfortable to increase efficacy.

Paul Macek asked the Commission to postpone vote to schedule case E-0002-0001-15 for public hearing.

Devan Patel questioned Alderwoman Rawson's placement as the Commission's liaison, stated that she queried the employment classification of the Commission's employees and Council questioned the efficacy and purpose of having Council liaisons, which seemed to indicate a plan to eliminate the role. Patel stated that Alderwoman Rawson was hyper vigilant about the activity of the Commission however the Council had been virtually silent about the discriminatory actions of city employees under their direct control, and cited a QC Times article detailing a housing discrimination case that was filed in federal court against the City of Davenport and Roy Dewitt. Patel detailed other instances of voucher recipients being discriminated against and being denied due process based upon race. Patel discussed the importance of the strength and independence of the Commission, and stated that despite the important purpose, in his opinion, the staff and Commissioners are frequently disrespected and are inadequately funded, yet criticized for the speed of case processing. Patel further questioned spending on furniture and remodeling of other departments, but the Commission's budget remained unchanged.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:47 p.m. Motion made by Nicole Bribiesco-Ledger, seconded by Judy Shawver.

The next meeting scheduled for Davenport Civil Rights Commission is May 8, 2018