

**MARION CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
April 6, 2016, 6:30 pm**

Marion City Hall
1225 6th Avenue
Marion, IA 52302

Commissioners Present: Mr. Dave Baumler
Ms. Danielle Brazant
Mr. Joseph Ellis
Ms. Renae Forsyth-Christy
Ms. Kim Gordon
Mr. Kent Jackson
Mr. Steve Moshier, Chair
Mr. Bret Nilles
Mr. Joe Stutler, Vice Chair
Ms. Angelica Vannatta

Commissioners Absent: Ms. Queen Githaiga

Staff/Other Present: Mr. Jay Johnson, Think Tank
Ms. Amanda Kaufman, Assistant to the City Manager, City of Marion
Mr. Devin Kelly, City Attorney, City of Marion
Mr. Robin Tucker, Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission Liaison
Ms. LaSheila Yates, Executive Director, Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission

I. Call to Order

Noting there was a quorum, Commissioner Moshier, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

II. Roll Call/Introductions

Commissioners, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

III. Public Response

There was no public response.

IV. Guest Speaker – Jay Johnson, Founder – Think Tank

Mr. Jay Johnson, the founder of Think Tank provided a presentation to the Commission regarding violence prevention and local student achievement.

V. **Approval of Minutes from March Meeting**

Commissioner Moshier, Chair, made a name clarification under the Director's Report. Commissioner Ellis moved to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner Gordon seconded the motion, and with no additional discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

VI. **Report from Chair**

Commissioner Moshier, Chair, passed over this report in recognition of time.

VII. **Committee Reports**

Executive Committee

Commissioner Stutler, Vice Chair, presented this report. The agenda for the regular April Commission meeting was drafted during the executive committee meeting.

Marion Liaison Report

Commissioner Nilles presented this report. The Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission approved the amended 28E agreement. It will come before the Marion Civil Rights Commission next month.

Cedar Rapids Liaison Report

Mr. Robin Tucker, Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission Liaison, presented this report. The Commission recently received a report from the Cedar Rapids School District on diversity. The finance sub-committee will be meeting in advance of Cedar Rapids' next regular Commission meeting.

Guest Speakers

Commissioner Ellis did not have a report to present.

Community Outreach

Commissioner Stutler, Vice Chair, presented this report. He mentioned that two upcoming events will provide opportunities for Commissioners to do outreach to the community: Linn-Mar Diversity Fair on April 21 and Marion City Showcase on April 23. Commissioners can get in contact with him if they are interested in participating.

VIII. **Director's Report**

Executive Director Yates presented this report and a copy of her report was included in the agenda packet. She shared that a Notice of Dismissal has been posted by the City of Marion. A listserv has been set up to share information on trainings and other educational offerings; commissioners are urged to contact Alicia Abernathy to sign up for this list. She also stated that no cases are currently on file for the City of Marion.

IX. **Old Business**

Code of Ethics for Commissioners

Amanda Kaufman distributed the Marion code of ethics and signature sheets. Commissioners are asked to turn them in by the last week of April to be received and filed

by the Marion City Council.

Commissioner Moshier, Chair, inquired whether any commissioners had heard from Commissioner Githaiga recently.

X. **New Business**

Train-the-Trainer, Part 1 “Know Your Rights” – Executive Director Yates

Executive Director Yates provided the first training in a series of train-the-trainer sessions for Commissioners. A copy of the training materials was included in the agenda packet.

Commissioner Moshier, Chair, stated that the executive committee would review the training materials during their next meeting and will decide how to proceed with potential updates or adoptions to the document.

XI. **Good of the Order**

No additional comments.

XII. **Adjournment**

Commissioner Baumler motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Jackson, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 4, 2016 at 6:30 pm at Marion City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue, Marion, Iowa.

Respectfully submitted by Amanda Kaufman, City of Marion