

MARION CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
June 3, 2015, 6:30 pm

Marion City Hall
1225 6th Avenue
Marion, IA 52302

Commissioners Present: Mr. Dave Baumler
Ms. Queen Githaiga
Ms. Kim Gordon
Mr. Kent Jackson
Mr. Steve Moshier, Chair
Mr. Bret Nilles
Mr. Joe Stutler, Vice Chair

Commissioners Absent: Ms. Deborah Brydon
Mr. Joseph Ellis
Ms. Elizabeth Hilkerbaumer
Ms. Angelica Vannatta

Staff/Other Present: Mr. Johnny Alcivar-Zuniga, Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission, Education and Outreach Coordinator
Ms. Amanda Kaufman, Assistant to the City Manager, City of Marion
Mr. Robin Tucker, Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission Liaison

I. Call to Order

Noting there was a quorum, Commissioner Moshier, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:39pm.

II. Roll Call/Introductions

Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

III. Public Response.

There was no public response.

IV. **Approval of Minutes from May Meeting**

Commissioners Moshier, Chair and Baumler noted three amendments to the May 2015 meeting minutes: 1. Remove Ms. Yates under commissioners not present; 2. Change the Commissioner count under the Marion Liaison Report; and 3. Revise the spelling of Commissioner Baumler's name. Noting no additional changes, Commissioner Jackson moved to approve the May minutes as amended and Commissioner Githaiga seconded the motion. With no additional discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

V. **Report from Chair**

Commissioner Moshier presented the chair report. He reminded the commissioners that July 1, 2015 begins a new fiscal year. Mr. Alcivar-Zuniga has prepared informational brochures for the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission. The Commission directed Amanda Kaufman to adapt the brochures for use in Marion.

The Commission also directed Amanda Kaufman to investigate prices for nametags and business cards.

Commissioner Moshier will finalize the annual report in June, which will be shared with the Marion City Council.

Charter committees and commissioner assignments need to be reviewed, and copies of the committee charters were included in the meeting packet. Commissioner Moshier stated that commissioners will have the option to continue with their assigned committees or change to new committee assignments. He also advised each commissioner to participate on two committees.

VI. **Committee Reports**

Executive Committee

Commissioner Stutler, Vice Chair presented the executive committee report. The executive committee met on May 27. During the executive committee meeting, the June meeting was planned and the upcoming retreat was discussed. Commissioner Moshier reminded the Commission that executive committee meetings are open meetings and any commissioner who would like to attend is welcome to.

Marion Liaison Report

Commissioner Nilles was not present to present this report.

Cedar Rapids Liaison Report

Mr. Robin Tucker, Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission Liaison presented this report. He stated that the May meeting was short because the majority of the time was utilized as a worksession. The Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission is reducing the size of its commission from 11 to nine members. Judy Goldberg was introduced during this meeting; Ms. Goldberg has recently joined the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission as an investigator. The transfer of backlogged cases from Cedar Rapids to the State was also discussed during this meeting.

Commissioner Nilles joined the meeting at 7:14 pm.

Mr. Tucker and Commissioner Nilles commented on the worksession that followed the meeting: it revolved around four primary areas, identified through the State of Equity: 1. Wealth and poverty in Linn county and Cedar Rapids; 2. Representation in public employment; 3. Fair housing; and 4. Achievement gaps in education in the Cedar Rapids and Marion school districts.

VII. **Director's Report**

Executive Director Yates was not present to present this report.

VIII. **New Business**

Roll of the Dice Event Discussion

Commissioner Baumler and Mr. Alcivar-Zuniga provided an overview of the Roll of the Dice event. Commissioners Nilles and Gordon suggested targeting high school students.

Commissioner Gordon also suggested inviting landlords to the event and coordinating it around one of the landlord group's regularly scheduled meetings. The Commission tentatively decided to schedule this event on the evening of Thursday, June 8 at Lowe Park. Amanda Kaufman is checking on room availability and Commissioner Gordon is checking on the availability of the landlord group.

Retreat Update

Commissioner Stutler, Vice Chair provided an update on the retreat. The date of the retreat will be held on Saturday, August 15 from 9am to 4pm at Marion City Hall. Training materials will be available to commissioners who are unable to be in attendance at the event.

Charter Committee Roles & Responsibilities

This topic was addressed during the report from the chair.

Lawful Source of Income Training Part One - Staff

Ms. Alcivar-Zuniga provided the commissioners training on lawful source of income. This presentation was part one of a two-part presentation, and the training materials were included in the meeting packet. It should be noted that lawful source of income is recognized as a protected class by the City of Marion, but not by the City of Cedar Rapids.

Upcoming Community Involvement Opportunities

July 12—Cedar Rapids Latino Fest

July 25—Cedar Rapids Asian Culture Festival

September 4—Stand-Down, Kernel Stadium

IX. **Adjournment**

Commissioner Nilles motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Baumler, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 1, 2015 at 6:30 pm at Marion City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue, Marion, Iowa.

Respectfully submitted by Amanda Kaufman