

**MARION CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
May 4, 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

Commissioners Absent: Ms. Queen Githaiga
Ms. Angelica Vannatta

Staff/Other Present: 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

I. Call to Order

Noting there was a quorum, Commissioner Moshier, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

II. Roll Call/Introductions

Commissioners, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

III. Public Response

There was no public response.

IV. Approval of Minutes from April Meeting

Commissioner Nilles made a minor name spelling correction. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner Stutler seconded the motion,

and with no additional discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

V. **Report from Chair**

Commissioner Moshier, Chair, presented this report. He reminded the commissioners that Chapter 31 addresses commissioner attendance at meetings. Commissioners missing three consecutive meetings or four meetings within a calendar year may be removed from the Commission, barring unusual circumstances. He asked that commissioners notify him of planned absences. He also reported on the Marion Civil Rights Commission's representation at the City of Marion's City Showcase on April 23. He encouraged commissioners to become involved with future community outreach events.

Commissioner Jackson inquired about putting out a media release, informing the community about the Civil Rights Commission.

VI. **Committee Reports**

Executive Committee

Commissioner Stutler, Vice Chair, presented this report. The meeting agenda was planned and initial members for the speaker's bureau were chosen: Commissioners Gordon and Vannatta.

Marion Liaison Report

Commissioner Nilles presented this report. During the April 20th Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission meeting, a new chairperson was elected: Selma Ingram and co-chair: Keith Rippy. A list of upcoming Cedar Rapids events was also provided, as listed below:

- Pridefest at Club Basix - June 4, noon-6 pm
- Tanager Fest at Rockwell Sports Complex - June 4, 4:30 - 6:30 pm
- Asian Culture Festival at McGrath Amphitheater - June 11, 2:00 - 10 pm
- Juneteeth at Viola Gibson Park - June 18 - 11:00 am - 4 pm
- ADA Celebration at Vets. Memorial Stadium - July 23 - 4:30 - 10 pm
- Vets Stand Down at Vets. Memorial Stadium - Sept. 9 - time TBD
- Festival Latino at Mays Island - Sept. 18 - 2:00 - 7:00 pm

Cedar Rapids Liaison Report

Mr. Robin Tucker, Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission Liaison, presented this report. He stated the staff is using a new case reporting matrix; as a commission, they will be learning to use this new tool. The Commission went into closed session regarding a housing case. In July, the Commission will officially reduce its membership from nine to seven. The next meeting will take place the third Wednesday in May.

Guest Speakers

Commissioner Ellis presented this report. He has been exploring several additional possible guest speakers for upcoming months.

Community Outreach

Commissioner Stutler, Vice Chair, presented this report. He reported on the two events the Marion Civil Rights Commission were represented at in April: the Linn Mar Diversity Fair and the City of Marion City Showcase.

VII. Director's Report

Executive Director Yates was not in attendance, but a copy of her report was included in the agenda packet. Mr. Robin Tucker, Cedar Rapids Liaison, provided an overview of the case report. From March 2015-2016, three cases had been filed and five had been closed. The City of Cedar Rapids approved the amended 28E agreement for professional services for the Marion Civil Rights Commission. He also provided a report on the recent mediation and fair lending trainings. Public accommodation/ADA outreach training is tentatively set for August 29, 2016.

VIII. Old Business

No old business.

IX. New Business

Approval of revised 28E agreement for professional services with the City of Cedar Rapids

Commissioner Stutler motioned to approve the amended 28E agreement as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baumler. Commissioner Ellis inquired about Marion's discretion over local investigations of cases. Amanda Kaufman clarified that Cedar Rapids will continue to conduct all intake for Marion, refer applicable cases to ICRC and HUD, and investigate the remaining cases in-house. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Good of the Order

Robin Tucker indicated that he will be leaving the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission in July when his term ends. He intends to continue being involved with both the Cedar Rapids and Marion Commissions.

XI. Adjournment

Commissioner Jackson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Forsyth-Christy, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 1, 2016 at 6:30 pm at Marion City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue, Marion, Iowa.

Respectfully submitted by Amanda Kaufman, City of Marion