

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

Marion City Hall
1225 6th Avenue
Marion, IA 52302

Commissioners Present: Ms. Danielle Brazant
Mr. Joseph Ellis
Ms. Renae Forsyth-Christy
Ms. Kim Gordon
Mr. Kent Jackson
Mr. Steve Moshier, Chair
Mr. Bret Nilles
Ms. Shirley Pantini
Ms. Angelica Vannatta

Commissioners Absent: Mr. Dave Baumler
Mr. Joe Stutler, Vice Chair

Staff/Other Present: Ms. Amanda Kaufman, Assistant to the City Manager, City of Marion
Mr. Devin Kelly, City Attorney, City of Marion
Ms. LaShelia 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 6:34pm.

II. Roll Call/Introductions

Commissioners, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

III. Public Response

There was no public response.

IV. Approval of Minutes from June Meeting

Commissioner Vannatta inquired about the Cedar Rapids Liaison role and whether it would be filled now that Robin Tucker is off the Cedar Rapids Commission. Executive Director Yates indicated that it would not be filled for now. Commissioner Forsyth-Christy moved to approve the minutes with the addition of Executive Director Yates to the “present” list.

Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion, and with no additional discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

V. **Report from Chair**

Commissioner Moshier, Chair, presented this report. He provided a brief overview of the evening's agenda items.

VI. **Committee Reports**

Executive Committee

Commissioner Moshier, Chair, presented this report in Commissioner Stutler's absence. He stated that the agenda was prepared and the previous month's invoice from Cedar Rapids.

Marion Liaison Report

Commissioner Nilles stated that the liaisons will only go one way, with the downsizing of the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission.

Cedar Rapids Liaison Report

There is currently no Cedar Rapids commissioner in this role, so this report will be removed from future agendas.

Guest Speakers

Commissioner Ellis presented this report. Rodney Bluml, group coordinator at PrairieWoods Franciscan Spirituality Center will be the presenter in October. Mr. Bluml intends to invite other spiritual leaders along with him for this presentation. As religious equity has been in the news lately, Mr. Ellis feels this would be a timely presentation. Bill Stone, a local attorney has agreed to speak at the November meeting. He has published articles on transgender rights and public accommodations. Commissioner Ellis also indicated that Commissioner Pantini and some of her former colleagues will provide a presentation in December on education equity.

Community Outreach

Commissioner Moshier, Chair, presented this report in Commissioner Stutler's absence. Commissioner Moshier indicated that Commissioner Stutler will have a press release ready for the commission's review at the next meeting. He indicated that he would like to have a presentation board and props for public events and presentations. The goal is to have at least one speaking engagement scheduled this year.

VII. **Director's Report**

Executive Director Yates presented this report. A copy of her report was included in the agenda packet. Between May 2015 and May 2016, no cases were filed with the Marion Civil Rights Commission and four were closed during that same period. Since January 1, 2016, six Marion cases were received by the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission staff and referred to either the Iowa Civil Rights Commission or Housing and Urban Development for investigation. She also noted that the Cedar Rapids City Council approved the 28E

agreement amendment on April 12th and the Marion Council subsequently approved it. She indicated that the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission will provide quarterly trainings to the public and these will be held at the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission.

VIII. **Old Business**

Discussion and approval of Guest Speaker Policy

A copy of the Commission Guest Speaker Policy, drafted by Commissioner Moshier, Chair, was included in the agenda packet items. A change was made from the last draft, keeping the minimum number of speakers at four, but eliminating a maximum annual speaker count. Commissioner Pantini suggested several clarifying and grammatical changes, which the commission was in agreement with. Commissioner Nilles motioned, Brazant seconded the motion, as amended. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Update regarding social event

Commissioner Nilles presented dates for a social event to be held at an establishment in Uptown Marion. The Commission came to a consensus that the evening of Wednesday, August 10 at 6:30 would work for the event. Commissioner Nilles will follow up prior to the next Commission meeting with the date.

Document review sub-committee appointments

Commissioner Moshier, Chair, indicated that Commissioner Gordon has already been appointed to this committee, and he asked Commissioners Jackson, Pantini, and Forsyth-Christy if they would also like to serve. All three commissioners indicated they would participate on this sub-committee. Results of the review will be referred to Mr. Kelly for legal review.

IX. **New Business**

Train-the-Trainer, Part 2: Overview of the Complaint Process – Executive Director Yates (1 hour)

Executive Director Yates provided the commissioners with a train-the-trainer session on the complaint process. A copy of the training materials was included in the agenda packet.

X. **Good of the Order**

Commissioner Ellis mentioned a recent supreme court case regarding affirmative action. Commissioner Vannatta would like to offer the StarPower simulation game for Five Seasons programs for both adults and youth.

XI. **Adjournment**

Commissioner Vannatta motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Gordon, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 3, 2016 at 6:30 pm at Marion City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue, Marion, Iowa.

Respectfully submitted by Amanda Kaufman, City of Marion