

**MARION CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

**August 3, 2016**  
1225 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Marion, IA 52302

**Commissioners Present:** Mr. Dave Baumler  
Ms. Renae Forsyth-Christy  
Ms. Kim Gordon  
Mr. Kent Jackson  
Mr. Steve Moshier, Chair  
Mr. Bret Nilles  
Ms. Shirley Pantini  
Mr. Joe Stutler, Vice Chair  
Ms. Angelica Vannatta

**Commissioners Absent:** Ms. Danielle Brazant  
Mr. Joseph Ellis

**Staff/Other Present:** Ms. Amanda Kaufman, Assistant to the City Manager, City of Marion  
Mr. Devin Kelly, City Attorney, City of Marion  
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 6:31pm.
- II. **Roll Call/Introductions**  
Commissioners, staff, and guests introduced themselves.
- III. **Public Response**  
There was no public response.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes from July Meeting**  
Commissioner Nilles moved to approve the July minutes as presented. Commissioner Baumler seconded this motion. With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
- V. **Report from Chair**  
Commissioner Moshier, Chair, presented this report. He stated that he would like to begin mapping out Commission objectives for 2017.

## VI. **Committee Reports**

### *Executive Committee*

Commissioner Stutler, Vice Chair, presented this report; he stated that the executive committee meeting was brief and the agenda for tonight's meeting was prepared.

### *Marion Liaison Report*

Commissioner Nilles presented this report. He attended the most recent Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission meeting. He shared that their commission has a new member. The major topic for discussion during this meeting was to discuss the draft work plan. A copy of the draft document will be distributed to Marion commissioners once it is approved by City Council. Another topic for discussion was advertisements on buses, related to housing and employment.

### *Community Outreach Report*

Commissioner Stutler, Vice Chair, presented this report. He provided a copy of a draft media release for the Commission. The release is meant to remind the community that a Civil Rights Commission exists and to offer commissioners up for community outreach events. The commissioners would like to also offer facilitation of the StarPower simulation game to interested community groups. Commissioner Vannatta said she has an active role in programming the Leadership for 5 Seasons adult and youth leadership programs in January 2017; she feels this would be an excellent opportunity to include some civil rights programming in the agenda. Executive Director Yates stated that she will send a copy of the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission's strategic outreach plan to commissioners.

## VII. **Director's Report**

Executive Director Yates presented this report. A copy of her report was included in the agenda packet. Between June 2015 and June 2016, no cases were filed with the Marion Civil Rights Commission and three were closed during that same period. Since January 1, 2016, seven Marion cases were received and transferred by the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission staff to either the Iowa Civil Rights Commission or Housing and Urban Development for investigation. She noted that there is an upcoming educational training geared toward restaurant and shop owners, and the primary topic will be public accommodations and ADA. Alicia Abernathy will send information about this training to commissioners.

## VIII. **Old Business**

### *Update Regarding Social Event*

Commissioner Nilles presented this update. The social event will be taking place at the Uptown Snug in Marion at 6:30pm on Wednesday, August 10. Food and drinks will be available for individual purchase. Commissioners and their significant others are encouraged to attend.

## IX. **New Business**

Steve Moshier, Chair, provided a current committee listing to commissioners. If commissioners are interested in being involved in another committee or make changes to their existing commitments, they are encouraged to let Mr. Moshier know. He also encouraged another commissioner to take Commissioner Nilles' spot as the liaison to the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission. This is a very time intensive commitment and he

has filled this role since the establishment of the Marion Civil Rights Commission. Commissioner Jackson addressed the document review committee deadline; commissioners agreed that an October deadline would be appropriate and committee members coordinated a tentative timeline for beginning review.

X. **Good of the Order**

No additional discussion.

XI. **Adjournment**

Commissioner Pantini motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Gordon, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm.

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 7, 2016 at 6:30 pm at Marion City Hall, 1225 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Marion, Iowa. A special informal meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at Uptown Snug, 760 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Marion, Iowa.

*Respectfully submitted by Amanda Kaufman, City of Marion*