

**MARION CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

September 7, 2016

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. Shirley Pantini

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

I. Call to Order

Noting there was a quorum, Commissioner Moshier, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

II. Roll Call/Introductions

Commissioners, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

III. Public Response

There was no public response.

IV. Approval of Minutes from August Meeting

Commissioner Nilles moved to approve the August minutes as presented. Commissioner Baumler seconded this motion. With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

V. Approval of Minutes from August Special Meeting

Commissioner Nilles moved to approve the August special meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Baumler seconded this motion. With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

VI. **Report from Chair**

Commissioner Moshier, Chair, presented this report. He shared that a press release about the Marion Civil Rights Commission recently went out to media sources. The StarPower simulation game was also purchased by the commission for future events. If a commissioner is aware of a group that may benefit from this game, he encouraged them to coordinate this with Commissioner Vannatta. A few adjustments were made to the committee assignments; an updated listing will be provided to commissioners. A tentative workplan will begin to be drafted by the executive committee and brought to the full commission later this calendar year for input. Commissioner Moshier thanked the commissioners for attending the social event in August and Commissioner Nilles for organizing the successful event.

VII. **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 workplan has been accepted by the Cedar Rapids City Council. The Commission is working on putting together a complaint review process. United Way also provided a presentation on a new initiative of learning more about local violence through neighborhood meetings.

Community Outreach Report

Commissioner Stutler, Vice Chair, presented this report. He stated that Amber Bisinger, the City Communications Coordinator, sent out a media release on August 22nd regarding the Civil Rights Commission. Commissioner Vannatta asked if the intention for community outreach should take a more deliberate or grassroots approach.

Guest Speakers Report

Commissioner Brazant presented this report. She shared that the guest speakers for the remainder of the calendar year have been scheduled. Rodney Bluml in October and Bill Stone in November. She also discussed future potential guest speaker ideas. Commissioner Brazant will continue to work with Commissioner Ellis on the guest speaker calendar for 2017.

VIII. **Director's Report**

Executive Director Yates was not present to present this report. A copy of her updates were included with the agenda packet materials.

IX. **Old Business**

No old business was discussed.

X. **New Business**

Train-the-Trainer, Part 3: Fair Housing –Executive Director Yates

This agenda item was removed from the agenda and will return on a future agenda.

XI. **Good of the Order**

Commissioner Nilles inquired about the case report provided by Cedar Rapids each month. He was wondering what level of detail was provided to the Marion Commission. Devin Kelly, City Attorney, indicated that the information may be confidential, but he can inquire further about that. Commissioner Jackson reiterated that he would also like to see more detail.

XII. **Adjournment**

Commissioner Forsyth-Christy motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Jackson, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22pm.

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 5, 2016 at 6:30 pm at Marion City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue, Marion, Iowa.

Respectfully submitted by Amanda Kaufman, City of Marion