

**MARION CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 4, 2015, 6:30 pm**

Lowe Park Arts and Environment Center  
4500 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Marion, IA 52302

**Commissioners Present:** Mr. Dave Baumler  
Mr. Joseph Ellis  
Ms. Janet Evans  
Ms. Queen Githaiga  
Mr. Kent Jackson  
Mr. Steve Moshier, Chair  
Mr. Bret Nilles  
Mr. Joe Stutler, Vice Chair  
Ms. Angelica Vannatta

**Commissioners Absent:** Ms. Deborah Brydon  
Ms. Elizabeth Hilkerbaumer

**Staff/Other Present:** Mr. Johnny Alcivar-Zuniga, Outreach Coordinator, Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission  
Ms. Amanda Kaufman, Assistant to the City Manager, City of Marion  
Mr. Robin Tucker, Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission Liaison  
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 6:41pm.

**II. Roll Call/Introductions**

Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

**III. Public Response.**

There was no public response. An additional opportunity for public response was added to the end of the meeting's agenda.

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

Noting no changes, Commissioner Jackson moved and Commissioner Baumler seconded the motion to approve the Commission's minutes from February. With no additional discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

V. **Report from Chair**

Commissioner Moshier, Chair presented the report. He and Ms. Yates discussed an upcoming civil rights symposium in May and encouraged those interested to attend the event. Commissioner Moshier expressed gratitude for those who put the meet and greet event together. Kevin Platz with the Cedar Rapids Association of Realtors was recognized for sponsoring the event.

VI. **Committee Reports**

*Executive Committee*

Commissioner Stutler, Vice Chair presented the executive committee report. He stated that the committee met telephonically on February 25. In addition to planning the agenda for the March meeting, billing was discussed.

*Marion Liaison Report*

Commissioner Nilles presented this report. He attended the February meeting. He shared that there was a training session on conflict of interest and discussion on a recent case.

*Cedar Rapids Liaison Report*

Mr. Tucker, Liaison to the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission, presented this report. He was not able to attend the most recent regular meeting. However, he did attend the most recent meeting of the Finance Committee. During this meeting, the committee met with representatives from the City of Cedar Rapids' finance department to discuss the budget.

*Marion Civil Rights Website*

Commissioner Ellis presented the website report. He presented proposed changes and suggested the Commission adopts them at the next meeting.

*Roll of the Dice Event*

Commissioner Baumler presented this report. Mr. Baumler provided estimates for the cost of the event. He said the commission can either obtain sponsorship or wait until the next fiscal year when there is dedicated funding.

VII. **Director's Report**

Executive Director Yates presented the Director's Report. Ms. Yates provided a brief overview of the Marion Civil Rights Commission since it was established. She stated that the Commission has accomplished quite a bit since their first meeting that was held in May 2014.

Ms. Yates stated she attended the last Landlords of Linn County meeting and will continue to attend these events. She stressed the importance of working with the public.

The Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission is working on a smart phone app re-design. They want it to be used as a point of access that can be used to file complaints.

Another project that is being worked on is a language line for translation services. It is partially funded through a HUD grant.

Ms. Yates discussed the performance standards that have been implemented to address the backlog of cases. Some cases have been transferred to the Iowa Civil Rights Commission to meet these standards.

VIII. **Old Business**

*Training – Postponed until April meeting*

Ms. Amanda Kaufman will provide a brief training on closed sessions during the regular April meeting.

IX. **New Business:**

*Upcoming Community Involvement Activities*

The media contest is still open and the deadline is March 30<sup>th</sup>. An insert has been included in the water utility bill to encourage submissions for the poster and video contest.

X. **Public Response:**

Kevin Platz expressed interest in sponsoring an upcoming Roll of the Dice event for Marion.

Paul Draper, Marion City Councilmember congratulated the Commission for moving forward so efficiently and professionally since their formation less than a year ago. He thanked the commissioners for serving in this capacity.

XI. **Adjournment**

Commissioner Nilles motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Jackson, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 pm.

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

*Respectfully submitted by Amanda Kaufman*