

**MARION CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**August 5, 2015, 6:30 pm**

Marion City Hall  
1225 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Marion, IA 52302

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

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

**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, Liaison, Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission  
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 6:31 pm.

**II. Roll Call/Introductions**

Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

Commissioner Jackson joined the meeting at 6:33pm

**III. Public Response.**

There was no public response.

Mr. Robin Tucker joined the meeting at 6:35pm

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

The commissioners noted several minor changes to the July meeting minutes. With the noted changes, Commissioner Nilles moved to approve the July minutes as amended and Commissioner Baumler seconded the motion. With no additional discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

V. **Report from Chair**

Commissioner Moshier, Chair presented this report. Mr. Moshier stated that the training originally scheduled for the August meeting will be pushed back to a later date.

VI. **Committee Reports**

*Executive Committee*

Commissioner Stutler, Vice Chair presented the executive committee report. Mr. Stutler stated that the items discussed during the executive committee meeting included changes to the Roll-of-the-Dice event and the August 15 retreat. The retreat originally scheduled for Saturday, August 15 has been postponed to a date that has not yet been determined. He reminded the Commission that all are welcome to attend the executive committee meetings.

*Marion Liaison Report*

Commissioner Nilles presented the Marion Liaison Report. During the most recent Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission regular meeting, Commissioner Nilles reported that there was a presentation on the history of civil rights, as well as a demonstration of InterGov, which is Cedar Rapids' new software system for tracking cases. During the meeting, the work plan for FY15-16 was also discussed.

*Cedar Rapids Liaison Report*

Mr. Robin Tucker presented the Cedar Rapids Liaison report. He expressed his excitement for the new InterGov system. He also stated that at the end of 2015, the committee reports for the upcoming calendar year will be assigned.

VII. **Director's Report**

Executive Director Yates presented this report. There were four cases filed with the Marion Civil Rights Commission between July 2014 and July 2015. There are currently two housing cases on file with the Marion Commission; these are non-HUD cases, so they are being investigated by the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission staff.

Ms. Yates stated that cases will continue to be referred to the Iowa Civil Rights Commission and HUD. The City of Marion and staff of the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission are investigating potential agreements.

The re-design of the smart phone application is on track to be complete in September 2015. This will allow complaints to be submitted in both Marion and Cedar Rapids via mobile devices.

## VIII. New Business

### *Resignations of Commissioner Brydon and Commissioner Hilkerbaumer*

Commissioner Moshier, Chair discussed the two resignations of Commissioners Brydon and Hilkerbaumer. He noted the need to replace these commissioners to maintain a gender balance. Commissioner Stutler, Vice Chair motioned to receive and file the resignations of Commissioner Brydon and Commissioner Hilkerbaumer. Seconded by Commissioner Jackson, the motion passed unanimously with no further discussion.

### *Roll of the Dice or Other Outreach Possibilities*

Commissioner Moshier, Chair provided an update on the Roll-of-the-Dice event, which the Marion Commission had originally scheduled for October 2015. This game may no longer be available. Former Executive Director John Paul Chaisson-Cardenas has indicated that he could possibly make the game available, but has concerns regarding who would facilitate it. Executive Director Yates stated that Ms. Janet Abejo, Investigator for Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission, is trained in facilitating that game.

Ms. Judy Goldberg, Investigator for the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission, researched alternative options to the Roll-of-the-Dice game. She found two appropriate alternatives (BaFa BaFa and Star Power) for the Commission to choose from; a description of each of these alternatives was included in the meeting packet. Commissioner Vannatta stated that she would prefer to not pursue the Roll-of-the-Dice game, and would feel more comfortable with one of the other two proposed options that can be secured. Ms. Yates stated the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission plans to purchase Star Power this year. Ms. Vannatta asked if these would be one-time investments with unlimited use for the Commission and Ms. Yates confirmed that was correct. Ms. Yates also noted that the Commission plans to also purchase BaFa BaFa in the future. Commissioner Vannatta stated that she liked the premise of the Star Power game and the level of interaction it has.

Commissioner Baumler provided a brief overview of the Roll-of-the-Dice game. Commissioner Ellis stated that the information provided through Roll-of-the-Dice was very educational, but he noted that it did not hold participants' attention for the entire time. Commissioner Nilles stated that he also prefers to purchase one of the two alternative games, since successfully securing Roll-of-the-Dice is unknown. Ms. Yates stated that Investigator Goldberg could be present at the next Commission meeting to further discuss the games.

Commissioner Moshier asked what the costs associated with this event would be. Executive Director Yates confirmed there would be no cost associated with the purchase of the game for the Marion Commission. Marion would be responsible for funding staff time and refreshments. The cost associated with a potential purchase of Roll-of-the-Dice is unknown.

The Commission discussed who the target audience for the event would be. Commissioner Baumler stated that members of the real estate community would be the target audience for the October 2015 event. Executive Director Yates stated that lawful source of income would be a relevant topic for this event.

Commissioner Moshier asked the sub-committee for this event to get together in the near future and provide a recommendation on how to proceed. Specifically, he asked the sub-committee to provide a recommendation on which of the two alternative games are preferred. He also stated

that he will wait until Wednesday, August 12 for a definitive response on the Roll-of-the-Dice game.

*Retreat Update*

Commissioner Moshier, Chair stated the retreat that was originally scheduled for Saturday, August 15 has been postponed to a later date; the date has not yet been determined.

*Upcoming Community Involvement Opportunities*

September 4:	Stand-Down, Kernel Stadium
July 11:	Marion Farmers Market
June 26-August 7:	Changing America: The Emancipation Proclamation, 1863 and the March on Washington, 1963 – Cedar Rapids African American Museum – free admission.
September 25-27:	Marion Swamp Fox Festival
September 26:	Walk to End Alzheimer’s – McGrath Amphitheater

**IX. Good of the Order**

The Commission discussed potentially inviting individuals and groups to the monthly meetings to provide presentations.

Commissioner Jackson suggested the Commission explore doing public outreach with the Marion Police Department.

Commissioner Moshier, Chair asked Commissioners to send ideas about outreach or presentations to Commissioner Stutler, Vice Chair.

Commissioner Vannatta will reach out to the two new superintendents to see how the Commission may be able to connect with them and the school districts.

Ms. Yates stated that she has a HUD conference in Washington, DC that will conflict with the September Commission meeting; she will send someone to fill in during her absence.

**X. Adjournment**

Commissioner Jackson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Baumler, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 2, 2015 at 6:30 pm at Marion City Hall, 1225 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Marion, Iowa.

*Respectfully submitted by Amanda Kaufman*