

**MARION CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
September 2, 2015, 6:30 pm**

Marion City Hall
1225 6th Avenue
Marion, IA 52302

Commissioners Present: Ms. Queen Githaiga
Ms. Kim Gordon
Mr. Kent Jackson
Mr. Steve Moshier, Chair
Mr. Bret Nilles
Mr. Joe Stutler, Vice Chair
Ms. Angelica Vannatta

Commissioners Absent: Mr. Dave Baumler
Mr. Joseph Ellis

Staff/Other Present: Ms. Janet Abejo, Investigator, Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission
Ms. Renae Forsyth-Christy, Prospective Commissioner
Ms. Amanda Kaufman, Assistant to the City Manager, City of Marion
Mr. Robin Tucker, Liaison, Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission

I. Call to Order

Noting there was a quorum, Commissioner Moshier, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

II. Roll Call/Introductions

Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

III. Public Response.

There was no public response.

IV. Approval of Minutes from August Meeting

Commissioner Jackson moved to approve the August minutes as presented and Commissioner Nilles 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 he received a memo regarding the city attorney's role with the Marion Civil Rights Commission. Commissioner Moshier addressed the outreach event. He has concerns about the cost and projected attendance numbers, but stated that it would be further discussed under committee reports. He also stated that the strategic planning retreat event is yet to be rescheduled, and the date will be dependent upon potential agreements with the Iowa Civil Rights Commission and HUD.

VI. **Committee Reports**

StarPower – Outreach Poverty Simulation Activity

Commissioner Vannatta presented this report. She stated that the StarPower game has been purchased by the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission. The game is very comparable to Roll-of-the-Dice. The primary reason this game was chosen is because the original intended audience was local landlords. One of the largest concerns is having time to advertise the event. The Commission discussed when the game should take place. Commissioner Gordon asked if the Commission could do a test run of the game and there was general support of this among commissioners.

Commissioner Vannatta asked if the group could define the audience for the event. She will investigate dates in February that may work. Ms. Janet Abejo will discuss the possibility of holding a test run of the game with the Commission beforehand with Investigator Goldberg.

Marion Liaison Report

Commissioner Nilles presented the Marion Liaison Report. He attended the most recent Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission meeting. A major topic for discussion was the State of Equity Report. Cedar Rapids is in the process of creating a position description and request for an Assistant Director.

Cedar Rapids Liaison Report

Mr. Robin Tucker presented the Cedar Rapids Liaison report. Mr. Tucker shared that the Commission visited Davenport to share information and learn about their processes in their Civil Rights Department. The Commission is currently in the process of evaluating their Executive Director. The Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission is now down to nine members, which mirrors their city's number of City Council numbers.

VII. **Director's Report**

Investigator Janet Abejo provided a brief overview of Executive Director Yates' report. A copy of this report was included in the meeting packet.

VIII. New Business

Public Accommodation Training - Staff

Investigator Janet Abejo presented public accommodation training to the Commission. Supplemental training materials were provided in the agenda packet.

Upcoming Community Involvement Opportunities

September 4: Stand-Down, Kernel Stadium; 8am-3pm
September 26-27: Marion Swamp Fox Festival
September 26: Walk to End Alzheimer's – McGrath Amphitheater
October 17: Superhero Walk – Lowe Park

IX. Good of the Order

X. Adjournment

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

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 7, 2015 at 6:30 pm at Marion City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue, Marion, Iowa.

Respectfully submitted by Amanda Kaufman