

**MARION CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
October 7, 2015, 6:30 pm**

Marion City Hall
1225 6th Avenue
Marion, IA 52302

Commissioners Present: Mr. Dave Baumler
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

Commissioners Absent: Ms. Queen Githaiga
Ms. Angelica Vannatta

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 6:33 pm.

II. Roll Call/Introductions

Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

III. Public Response.

There was no public response.

Mr. Joe Stutler, Vice Chair joined the meeting at 5:35pm.

IV. Approval of Minutes from September Meeting

Commissioner Jackson moved to approve the September minutes as presented 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 shared that he appeared on *Ethical Perspectives* to represent the Marion Civil Rights Commission. He encouraged other commissioners to participate in future episodes if they are interested. He brought up a topic of discussion from a recent Commission meeting to invite speakers to regular meetings and the potential creation of a speaker's bureau. Commissioner Jackson will take the lead on this. Commissioner Ellis expressed his interest in doing this and suggested setting up an annual calendar of speakers.

Commissioner Moshier provided an update on the StarPower simulation game. He stated that the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission staff will not be available to provide a run-through of this game to the Marion Commission during the November meeting.

Commissioner Nilles inquired about the budget process. He will present something to the Commission for the November meeting.

The final topic addressed was the election of new officers for the upcoming year.

VI. **Committee Reports**

Executive Committee

Commissioner Stutler, Vice Chair presented this report. He shared an overview of the September 24 executive committee meeting. He expressed his gratitude to Commissioner Moshier for participating in the *Ethical Perspectives* show, for which he serves as the producer. Commissioner Stutler will provide a link to the show for the Commission. He encouraged the commissioners to alert him of potential topics that would be a good fit for the show.

Marion Liaison Report

Commissioner Nilles presented the Marion Liaison Report. He acknowledged Ms. Yates' appointment as the City of Cedar Rapids' Cedar Rapids Chief Diversity Officer. Ms. Yates stated that a major focus of this initiative is to focus on diversity in Cedar Rapids community schools.

Cedar Rapids Liaison Report

Mr. Robin Tucker was not present to provide this report.

StarPower Simulation Report

Commissioner Baumler presented the StarPower Simulation Report. He stated that the date chosen for the StarPower simulation is Thursday, February 25. He will be working with the outreach committee to determine a schedule for running through the game with the Commission prior to February. Ms. Kaufman stated that \$1,020 had been budgeted for this event.

VII. **Director's Report**

Executive Director Yates presented the director's report. She stated that she will be out of the office beginning next week. She reviewed the case report and stated that only one Marion case is on file with the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission. She shared that the Cedar Rapids Commission no longer has any back-file of cases. The only old cases that are still active are those that are in trial.

Ms. Yates stated that she sent the 28E agreement to the Cedar Rapids city attorney office for review.

VIII. **New Business**

Motion authorizing the Chair to sign a FY16 Cooperative Agreement with the Iowa Civil Rights Commission
Mr. Kelly, City Attorney is recommending holding off on entering into the agreement with the Iowa Civil Rights Commission until there is further clarification on the 28E agreement.

Mediation and Conciliation Training – Staff

Ms. Yates provided training to the commissioners on mediation and conciliation.

Upcoming Community Involvement Opportunities

Sleep Out For Homeless Event at Veteran's Memorial Stadium – November 7, 2015

IX. **Good of the Order**

There was no additional discussion.

X. **Adjournment**

Commissioner Nilles motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Baumler, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 4, 2015 at 6:30 pm at Marion City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue, Marion, Iowa.

Respectfully submitted by Amanda Kaufman