

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

Marion City Hall
1225 6th Avenue
Marion, IA 52302

Commissioners Present: Mr. Dave Baumler
Ms. Danielle Brazant
Mr. Joseph Ellis
Ms. Renae Forsyth-Christy
Mr. Kent Jackson
Mr. Steve Moshier, Chair
Mr. Joe Stutler, Vice Chair
Ms. Angelica Vannatta

Commissioners Absent: Ms. Queen Githaiga
Ms. Kim Gordon
Mr. Bret Nilles

Staff/Other Present: Mr. Harry Daugherty, Police Chief, City of Marion
Ms. Amanda Kaufman, Assistant to the City Manager, City of Marion
Mr. Devin Kelly, City Attorney, City of Marion
Mr. Robin Tucker, Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission Liaison

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call/Introductions

Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

III. Public Response.

There was no public response.

IV. Presentation from Police Chief Harry Daugherty

The police chief provided a presentation on the Police Department and current topics. These topics included the use of body cameras to ensure appropriate conduct in the field, department procedures to address complaints, and the efforts of the Department to address all public safety issues fairly and equitably.

V. **Approval of Minutes from November Meeting**

Commissioner Forsyth-Christy moved to approve the November minutes as presented and Commissioner Vannatta seconded the motion. With no additional discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

VI. **Report from Chair**

Commissioner Moshier, Chair presented this report. He discussed the speaker line-up that Commissioner Ellis is putting together; he encouraged commissioners to work with Commissioner Ellis if they have any ideas for speakers. He stated that Commissioner Jackson will be reporting on the officer slate later in the meeting. He also stated that he'd like the executive committee to start meeting in Marion, rather than Cedar Rapids.

VII. **Committee Reports**

Executive Committee

Commissioner Stutler, Vice Chair presented this report. He stated that the agenda was planned during this meeting as well as the possible change in executive committee meeting location.

Marion Liaison Report

Commissioner Nilles was not present to provide the Marion Liaison Report.

Cedar Rapids Liaison Report

Mr. Robin Tucker presented the Cedar Rapids Liaison Report. He stated that during their last meeting, an administrative law judge ruled that the civil rights relating to the disability of a Cedar Rapids tenant was violated. The Cedar Rapids Commission entered into a long closed session to discuss this issue. Committee assignments for the commission are typically done on the calendar year, but the assignments have not yet been made for 2016. He stated that this could possibly be his final meeting as the liaison with the Marion Civil Rights Commission. He noted that the new app for the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission is a substantial improvement over what had been used previously and is a step in the right direction for continuing to communicate with the public. He further provided an overview of the Director's Report that was included in the agenda packet.

StarPower Simulation Report

Commissioners Baumler and Vannatta presented the StarPower Simulation Report. Commissioner Baumler asked for input on refreshments for the event. Commissioner Vannatta stated that they are targeting 30-50 people for this event. If there is a significant turn-out, they plan to split the group into two and run separate simulations simultaneously. The save-the-date postcard will go out in January, with additional press releases going out in February. A press release will go out to the media the Monday prior to the event. Invitations will go out to approximately 150-200 individuals.

Election of Officers Report

Commissioner Jackson presented this report. He stated that he reached out to all commissioners, but only heard back from 2 who stated that they were not interested in serving in 2016.

Commissioner Stutler stated that he would be willing to serve as vice chair again if no one else was interested. There was interest among commissioners in adding an additional commissioner to the executive committee. Commissioner Vannatta suggested that four attend the meetings. Mr. Kelly will review the by-laws to determine how the existing officer positions can be expanded and whether the executive committee can be expanded.

Guest Speakers Report

Commissioner Ellis thanked Commissioner Jackson for his idea of having speakers present during the regular commission meetings. Ron Hoover will discuss ADA compliance issues during the January 2016 meeting. He expressed interest in having a presentation on reasonable accommodations. Sara Buck, the housing manager for the City of Cedar Rapids will be the presenter in March 2016 to discuss Section 8 housing and the difficulties experienced by their clients in using the voucher system. Additional topics of interest include discussing the demographics of the community, religious tolerance, sexual identity, and education and bullying as it impacts the education system.

Community Outreach Report

Commissioner Stutler, Vice Chair presented this report. He indicated that he would like to initiate a speaker's bureau to go out to civic groups and schools to discuss civil rights. He would like to target adults and older students in high school.

VIII. Director's Report

Executive Director Yates prepared a director's report which was included this documentation in the agenda packet. She was not present to provide the report.

IX. New Business

Commissioner Brazant introduced herself; this is her first meeting as a member of the Marion Civil Rights Commission.

X. Good of the Order

Commissioner Jackson asked if a press release would be appropriate to send out in regard to the presentation from the police chief tonight. Commissioner Stutler reminded the Commission of Mayor Bouska's farewell reception on Thursday, December 17, following the City Council meeting.

XI. Adjournment

Commissioner Jackson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Vannatta, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted by Amanda Kaufman