

**MARION CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
November 4, 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. Steve Moshier, Chair
Ms. Angelica Vannatta

Commissioners Absent: Ms. Queen Githaiga
Mr. Kent Jackson
Mr. Bret Nilles
Mr. Joe Stutler, Vice Chair

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, Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission Liaison

- I. **Call to Order**
Noting there was a quorum, Commissioner Moshier, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm.
- II. **Roll Call/Introductions**
Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.
- III. **Public Response.**
There was no public response.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes from October Meeting**
Commissioner Ellis moved to approve the October 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. He stated that the slate of candidates for the upcoming year should be presented at the next meeting, and noted that the FY16-17 budget request would be presented during the current meeting. He wants to further explore putting together a speaker's bureau to enable commissioners to go out into the community and present on civil rights-related issues. A train-the-trainer event will be put together at a future date, through the expertise of the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission staff. He stated that the information from the commissions in Cedar Rapids and Marion should be almost identical, with the exception of lawful source of income. Noting that the first StarPower simulation will be held in February, he suggested not asking for donations until they have successfully completed this first event. Commissioner Moshier asked if Commissioners Vannatta and Baumler could facilitate the game themselves, depending upon the volume of turnout. Both Commissioners indicated that they could do this.

VI. **Committee Reports**

Executive Committee

Commissioner Moshier, Chair presented this report. He stated that there was no formal executive committee meeting prior to the regular November meeting. The invoice for staff services was sent to the City of Marion for processing in the interim.

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 due to some conflicts, the meeting was moved to the last Wednesday of October. Mr. Tucker stated that the Commission was introduced to Johnny Sevier, the new outreach coordinator through the AmeriCorps program. More information on his background was included in the agenda packet. The meeting also hosted Officer Hamlin from the Cedar Rapids Police Department, who spoke about disparities in the criminal justice system as well as the at-risk mentoring program and the associated stigma. Cedar Rapids Commissioners and staff are now meeting regularly with school representatives to address disparity issues within the Cedar Rapids Community Schools District. There will be a civil rights movie night at the Cedar Rapids Public Library in the afternoon on Sunday, January 17; the movie shown will be *Selma*. The CRCRC smartphone application was launched on October 9th. Cedar Rapids is in the process of reclassifying the investigator position to also include duties related to administration. The 28E agreement is also being reviewed by the City of Cedar Rapids staff.

Commissioner Moshier, Chair suggested the executive committee meetings be moved from Cedar Rapids to Marion, beginning in 2016.

Budget Report

Commissioner Moshier, Chair presented the budget report. The budget request for FY16-17 will match the request from the current fiscal year.

StarPower Simulation Report

Commissioners Baumler and Vannatta presented the StarPower Simulation Report. The game simulates “haves” against “have nots.” The plan is to provide a very simple explanation of the premise of the game so that it is not given away before participants play. The majority of the take-aways from the game will come from the subsequent discussion. The game is set for the evening of Thursday, February 25 at Lowe Park. For promotion, they would like to have a flyer, postcard, and letter for advertising. The key audience to reach includes a variety: Marion City Council, Marion Chamber Ambassadors, leaders in the faith community, School Boards and superintendents, service clubs, and landlords/realtors. Commissioners Vannatta and Baumler stated that it could be beneficial to provide short presentations to civic groups about the civil rights commission in January to prime them for participation in such a simulation event.

Election of Officers Report

Commissioner Jackson will present a slate of potential officers for 2016 during the December meeting.

Guest Speakers

Commissioner Ellis stated that he contacted a representative with the local housing division, to discuss the Section 8 program during the Commission’s regular meeting in March. Commissioner Jackson will be working to schedule the Marion police chief to meet with the Commission at an upcoming meeting. Other ideas include a representative from the City of Marion’s Building Department to discuss efforts to insure ADA compliance in construction, a representative from one of the school districts, and a speaker to represent disability issues within the community. He would like to have a fully developed calendar to publicize to the community.

VII. Director’s Report

Executive Director Yates prepared a director’s report which was included this documentation in the agenda packet.

VIII. New Business

Marion Civil Rights Commission Budget Request – Motion to accept and submit to City of Marion Budget Process

Commissioner Baumler moved and Commissioner Vannatta seconded the motion to accept and submit the FY16-17 budget request as presented in the agenda packet. The motion passed unanimously.

Upcoming Community Involvement Opportunities

Turkey Trot – November 14, 2015

IX. Good of the Order

Commissioner Vannatta asked for more information from Amanda Kaufman regarding potential t-shirts for commissioners.

X. **Adjournment**

Commissioner Forsyth-Christy motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Vannatta, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38pm.

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

Respectfully submitted by Amanda Kaufman