

**MARION CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
June 1, 2016, 6:30 pm**

Marion City Hall  
1225 6<sup>th</sup> 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. Danielle Brazant  
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. Shirley Pantini, prospective Marion Civil Rights Commissioner  
Mr. Robin Tucker, Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission Liaison  
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, staff, and guests introduced themselves.
- III. **Public Response**  
There was no public response.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes from May Meeting**  
Commissioner Forsyth-Christy moved to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Gordon seconded the motion, and with no additional discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

V. **Report from Chair**

Commissioner Moshier, Chair, presented this report. He stated that the next training sessions from Executive Director Yates will take place in July and September during the regular meetings. He asked that if commissioners will plan to be absent during those meetings, to let him know well in advance so alternative training plans can be accommodated.

VI. **Committee Reports**

*Executive Committee*

Commissioner Stutler, Vice Chair, presented this report. He stated the committee met on May 18<sup>th</sup> to plan the agenda.

*Marion Liaison Report*

Commissioner Nilles presented this report. He stated that the last Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission meeting was a short meeting. This was the first meeting with the new chair. He shared that Robin Tucker will be ending his term as a Civil Rights Commissioner for Cedar Rapids in July.

*Cedar Rapids Liaison Report*

Mr. Robin Tucker, Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission Liaison, presented this report. He stated that this will be his last meeting as a liaison from the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission. He shared that it has been a pleasure to watch the growth and be a part of the Marion Civil Rights Commission. He also announced that he has become the director of a non-profit board that is based out of Marion. Commissioner Moshier, Chair, thanked Mr. Tucker for his service to the Marion Civil Rights Commission.

*Guest Speakers*

Commissioner Ellis presented this report. He is looking at bringing speakers in during the August and October meetings. Now that training dates have been solidified, he will reach out to potential speakers regarding their availability.

*Community Outreach*

Commissioner Stutler, Vice Chair, presented this report. He is going to follow up with the Communications Coordinator for the City of Marion to get a press release about the Civil Rights Commission together that can be tied to the second year anniversary of the Commission.

VII. **Director's Report**

Executive Director Yates presented this report. A copy of her report was included in the agenda packet. Between April 2015 and April 2016, no cases were filed with the Marion Civil Rights Commission and five were closed during that same period. Since January 1, 2016, four Marion cases were received by the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission staff and transferred to either the Iowa Civil Rights Commission or Housing and Urban Development for investigation. She also noted that the Cedar Rapids City Council approved the 28E agreement amendment on April 12<sup>th</sup> and that the Marion Council will consider approval on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Jackson asked clarifying questions about service animals. Executive Director Yates provided some clarification and stated that she would follow up with the commissioners with supporting documentation at a future date.

**VIII. Old Business**

No old business.

**IX. New Business**

*Discussion Regarding Draft Guest Speaker Policy*

Commissioner Moshier, Chair, presented the guest speaker policy that he drafted. A copy of the draft was included in the agenda packets. The purpose of this policy is to guide commissioners in seeking out guest speakers to come in and officially address the Civil Rights Commission. He asked that commissioners review it and respond to him with any suggested revisions in advance of the next executive committee meeting.

*Discussion Regarding Social Event*

Commissioner Nilles led a discussion about holding an informal social event to get to know fellow commissioners in an informal setting. Spouses will be invited as well. Commissioners Vannatta, Brazant, Nilles, and Ellis will serve on the planning committee for this event.

*Discussion Regarding Annual Review of Operating Documents*

Commissioner Moshier stated that reviewing these documents is a good practice. With the upcoming anticipated adoption of the revised 28E, it would be appropriate timing to review at that time. He asked that assistant city attorney Devin Kelley assist with this process. Commissioner Gordon volunteered to serve as a reviewer.

*Motion to Recommend Removal of Commissioner Queen Githaiga*

Commissioner Moshier asked for a motion. Commissioner Stutler moved and Commissioner Baumler seconded the motion to recommend removal of Commissioner Githaiga. Commissioner Jackson asked about reaching out to her. Commissioner Moshier stated that he has reached out at least 3 times and has also received no response to monthly email messages. The motion passed unanimously.

*Motion to Recommend Appointment of Shirley Pantini*

Jackson moved, Gordon seconded the motion to recommend the appointment of Shirley Pantini to the Civil Rights Commission. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

**X. Good of the Order**

None

**XI. Adjournment**

Commissioner Stutler motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner

Jackson, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 6, 2016 at 6:30 pm at Marion City Hall, 1225 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Marion, Iowa.

*Respectfully submitted by Amanda Kaufman, City of Marion*