

**MARION CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 5, 2016, 6:30 pm**

Marion City Hall  
1225 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Marion, IA 52302

**Commissioners Present:** Mr. Dave Baumler  
Ms. Danielle Brazant  
Mr. Joseph Ellis  
Ms. Renae Forsyth-Christy  
Ms. Kim Gordon  
Mr. Kent Jackson  
Mr. Steve Moshier, Chair  
Mr. Bret Nilles  
Ms. Shirley Pantini  
Mr. Joe Stutler, Vice Chair  
Ms. Angelica Vannatta

**Staff/Other Present:** Ms. LaSheila Yates, Executive Director, Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission  
Ms. Alicia Abernathey, Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission  
Boy Scouts of America

**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, staff and guests introduced themselves.

**III. Public Response**

There were seven individuals present from the Boy Scouts of America. They were in attendance in order to receive their Citizenship in the Community badge. The requirements for this badge include attending a meeting of their choice and learning about the group and what they do.

**IV. Guest Speaker – Rodney Bluml, Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center**

Commissioner Moshier, Chair, stated the guest speaker was unable to attend the meeting as Wednesday is a religious night.

Commissioner Ellis stated the presentation was going to focus on religion as a protected class. Religion is coming up more often as it pertains to civil rights and next month's presentation will focus on public accommodations and will include a piece on religious beliefs for marriage and how they relates to serving the public.

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

Commissioner Nilles moved to approve the September minutes as presented. Commissioner Vannatta seconded the motion and, with no additional discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

**VI. Report from Chair**

Commissioner Moshier, Chair, presented this report. Mr. Moshier stated a draft strategic plan was presented to the Executive Committee. This plan will come before the Commission for review and

discussion by December. The plan identifies items for the next fiscal year and focuses on items the Commission is committed to completing as it relates to the ordinance and outreach. The log of Marion cases that phone calls and intakes have been received for show that focus needs to be placed on housing outreach. Mr. Moshier provided an example of an outreach opportunity called the Fair Housing Hot Seat. It would be something that is done with the community to educate them on fair housing. The game consists of two groups with each group having a person in the hot seat. The person in the hot seat is asked questions regarding fair housing and each answer correct earns points for the team. The team with the most points at the end wins the game. It's a way to have fun and learn at the same time. This, and other outreach ideas, will be discussed at the next Outreach Committee meeting.

## **VII. Committee Reports**

Commissioner Moshier, Chair, stated there was a change in some committee assignments.

### *Executive Committee*

Commissioner Stutler, Vice Chair, presented this report. Mr. Stutler noted the committee met on September 21<sup>st</sup>. The meeting consisted of agenda planning for this meeting and reviewing the billing from the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission.

### *Marion Liaison Report*

Commissioner Forsyth-Christy presented this report. Ms. Forsyth-Christy noted the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission met on September 21<sup>st</sup>. There were two presentations at the meeting including a diversity presentation from the Cedar Rapids Community School District and a sustainability presentation from the City's Sustainability Coordinator.

### *Community Outreach*

Commissioner Stutler noted there were no new updates. Commissioner Stutler addressed the Boy Scouts of America noting the Commission provides outreach to the community if they are interested or know anyone that may be interested.

Commissioner Pantini noted she made a request to Amanda Kaufman that the press release regarding the Commission's outreach efforts be placed in all Marion Messenger Newsletters. Ms. Pantini noted Ms. Kaufman agreed to place it in the Marion Messenger Newsletter next quarter.

### *Guest Speakers*

Commissioner Ellis presented this report. Mr. Ellis stated Commissioner Pantini will be the guest speaker for December and Attorney Wilfred Stone will be the speaker in November. Attorney Stone has experience with civil rights law.

Commissioner Pantini noted she will be joined by representatives from Linn Mar in December.

### *Document Review Committee*

Commissioner Jackson presented this report. Mr. Jackson stated four people worked to review current policies and the new 28E Agreement. It was determined there are no conflicts with the current policies and the new 28E Agreement. However, the Rules of Practice may need to be updated as there is a section that references the original 28E Agreement and the date it was active. Commissioner Pantini noted the Rules of Practice reference the 28E Agreement being attached. Commissioner Moshier, Chair, requested Commissioner Jackson draft a report regarding the matter and send it to him.

## VIII. **Director's Report**

LaSheila Yates, Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission Executive Director, presented this report. Ms. Yates noted for the August 2015 to August 2016 reporting period, there were no cases filed with the Marion Commission. Two (2) cases were closed during the same period. Ms. Yates noted since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 11 intake forms or phone calls regarding Marion complaints were received by the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission (CRCRC) and were transferred to other agencies for processing and investigation. Ms. Yates noted the majority of the intake forms and phone calls received were related to housing in Marion.

Ms. Yates noted the first Legacies Series was held on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and featured Black Women. There were approximately 75 people in attendance. The speakers each shared a personal story. This is the first of many Legacies Series to come. The second one will be held on November 10<sup>th</sup> and will feature Immigrants. The series are set up similar to TED Talks.

Ms. Yates noted the CRCRC is hosting Veterans training on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Individuals interested in attending may register at EventBrite. Ms. Yates noted the CRCRC adopted their FY17 Work Plan and approved a Public Policy Development and Review Process Standard Operating Procedures. The Public Policy Development and Review Process Standard Operating Procedures will be used when considering ordinance or Rules of Practice changes. The Commission will be looking into an ordinance clean up in the coming months. Ms. Yates noted the CRCRC staff is currently in a temporary location due to the recent flooding and will return to the Veterans Memorial Building following an air quality test.

Ms. Yates noted the CRCRC will be distributing their quarterly newsletter this week. Ms. Yates noted the Iowa Civil Rights Commission is hosting their annual Symposium on October 28<sup>th</sup>. If Commissioners are interested in attending the registration and event information is on the home page of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission website. Ms. Yates noted she will be on a leave of absence from October 7<sup>th</sup> through November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## IX. **Old Business**

No old business was discussed.

## X. **New Business**

### *Draft 1 – MCRC Strategic Plan*

Commissioner Moshier, Chair, noted Marion staff requested they be allowed to review the plan prior to submitting to the Commission for review. Unfortunately, the review was not completed and was not included in the agenda packet.

### *Train-the-Trainer, Part 3: Fair Housing*

Ms. Yates noted Commissioners received a copy of the presentation in advance and asked if there were any aspects of the presentation that Commission were uncomfortable with. Commissioner Ellis noted he would like information on Lawful Source of Income incorporated into the presentation. Ms. Yates stated the information pertaining to Lawful Source of Income will be incorporated into the presentation and noted there is a training that only focuses on Lawful Source of Income if the Commission would like to use that for training purposes as well.

Commissioner Forsyth-Christy noted she attended the State Association of Realtors and Lawful Source of Income was discussed. There are some cities in Iowa that are looking into adopting it as a protected class. The State and national organizations have not taken a position on the matter.

**XI. Good of the Order**

Commissioner Ellis noted “Vang” focusing on immigrant farmers will be shown on October 29<sup>th</sup> at Prairiewoods in Hiawatha from 3:00 – 5:00 PM.

Ms. Yates noted Senior Investigator Janet Abejo will serve as the point of contact for the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission during her leave of absence.

**XII. Adjournment**

Commissioner Jackson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Baumler, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 2, 2016 at 6:30 pm at Marion City Hall, 1225 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Marion, Iowa.

*Respectfully submitted by Alicia Abernathey, Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission*