

MARION CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
January 4, 2017, 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
Ms. Kim Gordon
Mr. Kent Jackson
Mr. Steve Moshier, Chair
Mr. Bret Nilles
Ms. Shirley Pantini
Mr. Joe Stutler, Vice Chair
Ms. Angelica Vannatta

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff/Other Present: Ms. Amanda Kaufman, City of Marion, Assistant to the City Manager
Mr. Devin Kelly, City of Marion, City Attorney
Ms. LaSheila Yates, Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission, Executive Director

I. Call to Order

Noting there was a quorum, Commissioner Moshier, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:33pm.

II. Roll Call/Introductions

Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

III. Public Response

No response.

IV. Director's Report.

Ms. Yates, Executive Director of the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission, provided an update on the caseload report and director's report. She also shared that the Cedar Rapids Commission is having a MLK Day Movie Night and Public Employment Job Fair on January 16th. There will also be a legacy series in February and a cultural expo on March 18; additional information will be forthcoming on these events. She encouraged Marion commissioners to get involved.

Commissioner Vannatta joined the meeting at 6:38pm.

V. Approval of Minutes from December Meeting

Commissioner Pantini moved to approve the December minutes as presented. Commissioner Forsyth-Christy seconded the motion, and with no additional discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

VI. **Report from Chair**

Commissioner Moshier, Chair, presented this report. He provided an overview of the current agenda. He reminded the commissioners that they need to adhere to the City's social media and ethics policies. He also reminded commissioners that they are to only wear their official name badges to official Marion Civil Rights Commission events.

VII. **Committee Reports**

Executive Committee

Commissioner Stutler, Vice Chair, stated that the executive committee met to plan the agenda for the January meeting.

Marion Liaison Report

Commissioner Ellis presented this report. Mr. Ellis provided an update on Diversity Focus; they still have a board but do not have staff.

StarPower

Ms. Vannatta shared that there is an upcoming simulation planned for the Leadership for Five Seasons group that she will be leading. Commissioners briefly discussed potential future applications for StarPower simulations in the community.

VIII. **Old Business**

- a. Presentation Practice – Community Speakers Committee (30 minutes)
Commissioners Moshier and Gordon provided presentations to the Commission. Commissioners provided feedback to the presenters and generally discussed ideas around providing community presentations.
- b. Review of Strategic Plan
The commissioners reviewed a draft plan, provided by Commissioner Moshier, Chair. The commissioners agreed on three overall categories and chose working groups to better refine them. The categories and working group assignments are listed below:
Education: Commissioners Vannatta, Gordon, Forsyth-Christy
Support: Commissioners Nilles and Baumler
Awareness: Commissioners Brazant, Ellis
- c. Review of FY17-18 Budget Request
Commissioners were provided with a copy of the FY17-18 budget request, which remains steady from the prior budget year.

IX. **New Business**

- a. Nomination and Election of Officers
Commissioner Jackson presented this report. He stated that Commissioners Moshier and Stutler both communicated interest in remaining in their officer positions. Commissioner Jackson opened the floor for nomination of office of chair. No additional nominations were made. Commissioner Pantini made a motion to close nominations and move for the re-election of Commissioner Moshier as chair. Commissioner Brazant seconded the motion and with no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Jackson opened the floor for nomination of office of vice chair. No additional nominations were made. Commissioner Jackson asked for a motion to close nominations and re-elect

Commissioner Stutler for Vice Chair of the Commission. The motion was moved by Commissioner Pantini and seconded by Commissioner Forsyth-Christy. With no further discussion, the motion passed with two abstentions from Commissioners Baumler and Brazant.

X. **Good of the Order**

Ms. Kaufman reminded Commissioners of the upcoming State of the City event on January 26th. Any interested commissioners should let Ms. Kaufman know and she will get them registered. She also provided information on the annual boards and commissions recognition reception. This reception will take place on Thursday, February 2nd in the atrium of the Marion City Hall between 4:30 and 6:00pm. There will be brief remarks by the Mayor at 5:15pm and all commissioners are encouraged to attend.

Commissioner Forsyth-Christy pitched an idea for a bus tour to promote awareness around successful low income housing projects that received funding through the Housing Fund for Linn County. The commissioners were interested in an idea and Commissioner Forsyth-Christy will come back with additional information in coming months.

XI. **Adjournment**

Commissioner Vannatta motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Gordon, the meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 1, 2017 at 6:30 pm at Marion City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue, Marion, Iowa.

Respectfully submitted by Amanda Kaufman, City of Marion