

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

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

**Commissioners Present:** Mr. Dave Baumler  
Ms. Danielle Brazant  
Ms. Kim Gordon  
Mr. Kent Jackson  
Mr. Steve Moshier, Chair  
Ms. Shirley Pantini  
Mr. Joe Stutler, Vice Chair  
Ms. Angelica Vannatta

**Commissioners Absent:** Mr. Joseph Ellis  
Ms. Renae Forsyth-Christy  
Mr. Bret Nilles

**Staff/Other Present:** Ms. Amanda Kaufman, City of Marion, Assistant to the City Manager  
Mr. Devin Kelly, City of Marion, City Attorney  
Chief Joseph McHale, City of Marion Police Chief  
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 6:29pm.

**II. Roll Call/Introductions**

Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

Commissioner Jackson joined the meeting at 6:30pm.

Angelica Vannatta joined the meeting at 6:31pm.

**III. Public Response**

Chief McHale, the City of Marion's new police chief introduced himself to the Commission.

**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 shared upcoming events with the commissioners:

- The Legacies Series featuring Black Men will be February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6:00 – 7:30 PM at the Cedar Rapids Public Library in the Whipple Auditorium.
- The Cultural Expo will be March 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM at the Cedar Rapids Public Library.

- The Movie Night featuring “He Named Me Malala” will be February 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7:15 PM at the Cedar Rapids Public Library in the Whipple Auditorium.
- The Public Sector Job Fair will be February 14<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 5:30 PM at the Cedar Rapids Public Library in the lobby.

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

Commissioner Baumler moved to approve the January minutes as presented. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion, and with no additional discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

**VI. Report from Chair**

Commissioner Moshier, Chair, did not have a report to present during this time.

**VII. Committee Reports**

*Executive Committee*

Commissioner Stutler, Vice Chair, stated that the executive committee met to plan the agenda for the February meeting. Details regarding the future guest speakers was also discussed. The guest speaker committee will now route their recommendations through the executive committee.

*Marion Liaison Report*

Commissioner Forsyth-Christy provided this report to Commissioner Moshier, chair, to provide to the Commission.

*Guest Speakers*

Commissioner Brazant presented this report. She stated that they had a few ideas in mind for upcoming presentations in the spring. She further noted that Commissioner Ellis had additional comments to share at the next meeting.

**VIII. Old Business**

**a. Strategic Plan Working Group Reports**

Commissioners Pantini and Jackson provided a copy of the draft strategic plan to commissioners during the meeting. She stated that the commission should be actively proactive in reaching out to the community, rather than being passive in allowing individuals or organizations to contact the group.

The Commission directed Ms. Kaufman to put together a calendar template that can be used as a working document, and should be continually updated throughout the year.

Commissioner Brazant discussed that her working group focused on ideas regarding future guest speakers.

Commissioners Vannatta and Gordon discussed three topics: 1. Presentations 2. Simulations 3. Street Team. They felt the audience activities would be best suited for already-formed groups, rather than doing a general community call-out. The presentations would be targeted toward service organizations. The street teams could participate at local community events. They felt the presentations should happen at least once per quarter, the simulations at least twice per year, and the street team activities, as often as possible. Commissioners Vannatta and Gordon asked that all commissioners try to commit to two events per year. They also discussed the possibilities of providing additional StarPower simulations throughout the community, and making slight adjustments to the game so it

could have a fair housing focus. This group also shared that they would prefer to keep the community outreach specifically focused in Marion right now.

IX. **New Business**

No new business.

X. **Good of the Order**

Ms. Pantini provided an invitation from a local pastor regarding a pot bless. The event will be held on Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 pm at the First Presbyterian Church, located at 802 12<sup>th</sup> Street in Marion.

XI. **Adjournment**

Commissioner Brazant motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Baumler, the meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm.

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

*Respectfully submitted by Amanda Kaufman, City of Marion*