

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

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

**Commissioners Present:** 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:** Mr. Dave Baumler

**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 6:30pm.

**II. Roll Call/Introductions**

Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

**III. Public Response**

Ms. Yates provided a brief overview of HB92 (now HF295) as it relates to potential changes in civil rights legislation for cities in Iowa.

Joe Stutler spoke as a citizen in opposition to HF295. He asked that the Civil Rights Commission formally state their position on the bill and that they encourage the City Council to do so as well.

Mari Davis and Jim Mart, local landlords and property managers, introduced themselves and Ms. Davis stated her concerns with lawful source of income being included in Marion's Civil Rights code and indicated that she would like to learn more about it.

**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 reported that over 115 people attended the most recent Legacy series event. The next in the series is proposed to feature youth in June. She shared that she passed her SHRM exam to become a certified human resources professional. No new

cases were filed for Marion with the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission in the past year and one case in the area of housing has been closed during that same time. Fourteen complaints have been referred to either the Iowa Civil Rights Commission or Housing and Urban Development for intake over the past year. The upcoming events are as follows:

- Community Cultural Celebration & Expo: March 18, 10am–2pm, Cedar Rapids Public Library
- Fair Housing Training: Disability, Dogs, and Doors: April 28, 9:30-11:30am and 1pm-3pm, Cedar Rapids Public Library

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

Commissioner Stutler moved to approve the February 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 shared that city staff sat in on a call with other civil and human rights agencies across the state to learn more about proposed legislation. He indicated he will be looking for volunteers later in the meeting for the Community and Cultural Expo. Mr. Moshier also announced that he received a resignation letter from Commissioner Ellis.

VII. **Committee Reports**

*Executive Committee*

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

*Marion Liaison Report*

Commissioner Ellis provided this report. He attended the most recent Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission meeting. During this meeting, there was discussion on HF295. They also discussed the success of their recent job fair.

VIII. **Old Business**

a. Strategic Plan Working Group Reports

Commissioner Pantini provided an update on the strategic plan progress. Notes from each working group were combined into the working draft report. She shared several suggestions for improving the Commission's communications. Commissioners discussed the extent of targeted groups to include in outreach.

IX. **New Business**

a. Community and Cultural Expo

Commissioner Moshier, Chair, asked for volunteers for this event. Volunteers include Renae Forsyth-Christy, Shirley Pantini, Bret Nilles, Kim Gordon, and Steve Moshier. Amanda Kaufman will prepare the Marion wheel with questions ahead of time. Volunteer time slots will be scheduled in two-hour increments; Mr. Moshier will follow up with volunteers via email.

X. **Good of the Order**

Commissioner Ellis announced to the Commission that he will be resigning as a Commissioner. He has been a member of the Marion Civil Rights Commission since its inception. Commissioners thanked him for his service.

Commissioner Brazant noted that the process for securing guest speakers in the future will be a more organized process, based on topics. Commissioner Moshier, Chair, shared that the executive committee came up with criteria that should be considered when reaching out to potential guest speakers: protected class, housing/employment, unbiased material, non-political/non-partisan agenda, and relevant to the City of Marion.

XI. **Adjournment**

Commissioner Nilles motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Gordon, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 5, 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*