

**MARION CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 6:30 pm**

Marion City Hall  
1225 6th Avenue, Marion, IA 52302

**Commissioners Present:**

Chris Stoner  
Okpara Rice  
Frederick Brown  
Kent Jackson  
Danielle Brazant  
Renaë Forsyth-Christy  
Dave Baumler  
Kim Eiler  
Selita Jansen

**Commissioners Absent:**

Jenifer Tibbets  
Bret Nilles

**Staff/Other Present:**

Amal Eltahir, City of Marion

**I. Call to Order**

Noting there was a quorum, Commissioner Jackson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

**II. Roll Call/Introductions**

Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

- III. Presentation-** Stefanie Muensterman-Scriven on Peace Circles at McKinley  
Speaker presented on a restorative justice peace circles practice as a framework for addressing conflict and challenging behavior through dialogue. According to research the practice is promising in terms of achieving equity in school discipline. The idea was piloted in the school as an alternative to suspending students as disciplinary measure.

**IV. Public Response**

The was no public response.

**V. Director's Report**

Stefanie presented complaint case report and upcoming outreach events and activities list, including a housing resource fair event focused on the “credit basis” as part of Cedar Rapids work plan. The event will include panel discussion, lunch, and a free childcare service.

VI. **Approval of Minutes from November Meeting**

Commissioner Rice moved to approve the January minutes as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Stoner, motion passed.

VII. **Report from Chair**

Commissioner Jackson and Commissioner Brown met with Janet Abejo-Parker as part of Chair and Vice Chair appointment orientation. Commissioners discussed 28E agreement and updating rules of practice. Commissioners expressed interest in a quarterly director report presentation.

VIII. **Committee Reports**

a. *Executive Committee*- Commissioner Brown  
Commissioners met to set the agenda. Committee discussed outreach planning.

b. *Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission Liaison* - Renae Forsyth-Christy

Nothing to report as the meeting was a close session meeting.

c. *Grants & Strategic Planning Committee* -Commissioner Brown  
Four applications were received. The committee rated requests using rubric, deliberated, and concluded evaluation recommending awards for WilisDady, Marion Cares, and Four Oaks. Commissioner Brazant moved to approved recommendations, seconded by Commissioner Forsyth-Christy, motion passed with Commissioner Eiler's abstention.

d. *Communication and outreach Committee* -  
Commissioners suggested meeting quarterly to plan events. Commissioner Jackson suggested hosting Bernard Walters with the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights to speak on Service Animals in May.

IX. **Unfinished Business**

a. Partnership with the Marion Library  
Commissioner Stoner talked to with Madeline Jarvis, Director of scheduling for adult programming and confirmed that Commission's April meeting to be held at the library. Commissioner Eiler will be sharing featured speaker's, Mark Hudson, biography with communication and outreach committee.

X. **New Business**

- a. Outreach Planning Discussion- Discussed above
- b. Upcoming Events
  - i. Community Cultural & Expo-CR Public Library, 10-2 PM on March 7<sup>th</sup>, Commissioners Brown, Jensen, and Baumler (tentatively) will be representing the commission
  - ii. Housing Resource Fair-CR Public Library, April 11<sup>th</sup> 2020 10-2 PM Commissioners Brazant, Forsyth-Christy, Eiler, and Baumler will be representing the commission.

XI. **Good of the Order**

Commissioner Stoner mentioned that the Marion library is hosting “cost of homelessness” presentation set for end of January is postponed at the request of the presenter.

XII. **Adjournment**

Commissioner Forsyth-Christy moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Eiler, the meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6:30 pm at Marion City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue, Marion, Iowa.

*Respectfully submitted by Amal Eltabir, City of Marion*