

**MARION CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 6:30 pm**

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

**Commissioners Present:**

Chris Stoner  
Okpara Rice  
Frederick Brown  
Danielle Brazant  
Renae Forsyth-Christy  
Dave Baumler  
Kim Eiler  
Selita Jansen  
Jenifer Tibbets  
Bret Nilles

**Commissioners Absent:**

Kent Jackson

**Staff/Other Present:**

Amal Eltahir, City of Marion

**I. Call to Order**

Noting there was a quorum, Commissioner Brown, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

**II. Roll Call/Introductions**

Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

**III. Public Response**

There was no public response.

**IV. Director's Report**

Commissioner Brown presented complaint case report and upcoming outreach events including upcoming activities list.

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

Commissioner Rice moved to approve the February minutes as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Baumler, motion passed.

## **VI. Report from Chair**

Report items are covered under committee reports.

## **VII. Committee Reports**

- a. *Executive Committee*- Commissioner Brown stated that the committee met on February 19<sup>th</sup> to set the agenda. Commissioners discussed case investigation and Cedar Rapids billing. Commissioner Baumler suggested inviting Executive Director twice a year to present and discuss case report.
- b. *Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission Liaison* - Renae Forsyth-Christy  
Commissioner was not able to attend due to scheduling conflict.
- c. *Grants & Strategic Planning Committee* -Commissioner Brown shared that awards and rejection letters were sent out. Amal stated that allocated funds are available for disbursement once signed agreements were returned.
- d. *Communication and outreach Committee* -  
Commissioners will hold first official committee meeting next week to talk about general responsibilities.

## **VIII. Unfinished Business**

- a. Partnership with the Marion Library  
Commissioner Stoner informed the commission that the commission's April meeting will not be held at the library due to scheduling conflict with library programming. Madeline Jarvis, Director of scheduling for adult programming tentatively reserved the space for May going forward for commission's meetings with speakers on the agenda to be held at the library.

## **IX. New Business**

- a. Bill on Lawful Source of Income  
Commissioners Nilles and Eiler spoke to representatives, Ashley Hansen and Liz Mathis to voice concerns regarding the impact of the bill. Commissioner Forsyth-Christy, being part of the association of realtors, shared that realtors are a powerful group pushing the bill and that argument for the bill is based on the association's property damage concerns, claiming uncertainty or no recourse exists to recover owners' losses.
- b. Upcoming Events
  - i. Community Cultural & Expo-CR Public Library, 10-2 PM on March 7<sup>th</sup>,  
Commissioners Brown, Jensen, and Baumler will be representing the commission
  - ii. Corridor Autism Resources Expo (CARE), Mt Mercy Graduate Center,  
March 21<sup>st</sup>. No representation is planning at this time.
  - iii. Housing Resource Fair-CR Public Library, April 11<sup>th</sup> 2020 10-2 PM  
Commissioners Forsyth-Christy, Eiler, and Baumler will be representing the commission.

X. **Good of the Order**

Commissioner Rice in a meeting with Linn County public health director talked about racism and discrimination and how racism can be a health issue. Commissioner said that infant mortality rates for African American and minority families call for more investigation, suggesting the topic and inviting the director to speak on the issue next year.

XI. **Adjournment**

Commissioner Brown moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Jensen, the meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 at 6:30 pm at Marion City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue, Marion, Iowa.

*Respectfully submitted by Amal Eltabir, City of Marion*