

MARION CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
April 3rd, 2019, 6:30 pm

Marion City Hall
1225 6th Avenue
Marion, IA 52302

Commissioners Present: Mr. Dave Baumler
Ms. Selita Jansen
Mr. Chris Stoner
Mr. Frederick Brown
Mr. Kent Jackson
Mr. Bret Nilles
Ms. Kim Gordon
Mr. Okpara Rice
Jennifer Tibbits

Commissioners Absent: Ms. Renae Forsyth-Christy
Ms. Danielle Brazant

Staff/Other Present: Ms. Amal Eltahir, City of Marion

- I. **Call to Order**
Noting there was a quorum, Commissioner Nilles, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.
- II. **Roll Call/Introductions**
Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.
- III. **Public Response**
There was no public response.
- IV. **Star Power Simulation.** Discussion topic was housing and neighborhoods
- V. **Director's Report**
Commissioner Nilles, Chair, reviewed the reports submitted by Executive Director. Commissioner noted that the case report presented more information and will be further refined.

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

Commissioner Rice moved to approve the March minutes as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Jackson, the motion passed unanimously.

VII. **Report from Chair**

Commissioner Nilles noted that Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission expanded the search to fill the executive director position nationwide.

VIII. **Committee Reports**

Executive Committee

Commissioner Jackson, Vice Chair, stated that the agenda was planned, and events were discussed during the meeting.

Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission Liaison

Commissioner Nilles mentioned Commissioner Forsyth-Christy is expected to be back soon.

IX. **Old Business**

a. Briefings:

i. Community Cultural EXPO

Commissioner Jansen stated that the event was well attended pointing out that location at the library helped with turnout. Commissioner Jackson represented the commission in the morning shift, Commissioner Nilles and Commissioner Jansen filled in afternoon shift.

b. Strategic Plan Update

Commissioners Brown, Rice, and Jackson and Amal will meet on the 19th to update the plan lunch time at Granite City.

X. **New Business**

a. Upcoming Community Events

- **Service Animal, Commissioner Gordon** – commissioner will be presenting at a crime free housing seminar hosted by the Marion PD. On behalf of the commission, Commissioner Gordon will focus on two topics: 1. service and companion animals and reasonable accommodations for disability. 2. Lawful source of income. Commissioner will share presentation slides with MCRC after the event.
- **Lin-Mar Diversity fair**- Thursday April 18 at 11 -2 pm. Commissioner Jackson will represent the commission. Commissioner Tibbets indicated she will tentatively attend. Commissioners discussed ideas on engaging students such as MCRC Trivia questions, handing out gift cards, Snap chat filter, or QR code to lead to the website. Commissioner Tibbets volunteered to look into the possibility of a Snap chat filter.

- ***Fair housing Month Proclamation-*** Amal put the proclamation on City Council agenda. Commissioner Gordon volunteered to accept the proclamation, on behalf of the commission.

Commissioner Tibbets came up with an MCRC Trivia Night idea. Commissioner will get contact and info. Details will be discussed later.

XI. **Good of the Order**

Commissioner Jackson stated May will be the commission's five-year anniversary. Commissioner suggested publicity such as interview with the Gazette, shedding light on the commission.

XII. **Adjournment**

Commissioner Nilles motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Baumler, the meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 1st, 2019 at 6:30 pm at Marion City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue, Marion, Iowa.

Respectfully submitted by Amal Eltabir, City of Marion