

MARION CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
June 5th , 2019, 6:30 pm

Marion City Hall
1225 6th Avenue
Marion, IA 52302

Commissioners Present: Dave Baumler
Chris Stoner
Frederick Brown
Kent Jackson
Bret Nilles
Kim Eiler
Renaë Forsyth-Christy
Danielle Brazant

Commissioners Absent:

Okpara Rice
Jenifer Tibbets
Selita Jansen

Staff/Other Present: Amal Eltahir, City of Marion

I. Call to Order

Noting there was a quorum, Commissioner Nilles, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

II. Roll Call/Introductions

Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

III. Partnership with Marion Library-Discussion with Holli Trenary, Library Director

One of the established library partnerships with the MCRC is to address homelessness in the community. Holli described the homelessness response team as a diverse group comprised of several city staff, fire department, Linn county outreach, social workers from both school districts, and non-profit organizations such as Willis Dady. The team distribute an emergency sleep kits that included accommodations, bus passes, food, and closing vouchers.

Holli's emphasized that historically libraries have been about information and about the people and that the Library plays a big role in connecting people with resources. The current process includes intakes as well as follow-ups connecting patrons with social services and looking to collaborate with the MCRC to bring resources and more social services resources to Marion. For example, hosting pop up shops where needed services such as social services, dental care and closing are to be offered.

Holli expressed her concerns regarding lack of support existed for an LGBTQ pride event planned at the library asking for the MCRC support. She recommended a pride proclamation and a letter of support.

Commissioner Baumler moved to write a letter of support, seconded by commissioner Jackson. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioners also discussed proclamations displays at the library and future sponsorship for pride events.

IV. **Public Response**

There was no public response.

V. **Director's Report**

Commissioner Nilles commented that the report presented same issues and in the community.

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

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

VII. **Report from Chair**

Commissioner Nilles noted that Holli raised awareness about discrimination and homelessness. Commissioner called for support for the library's agenda.

VIII. **Committee Reports**

Executive Committee

Commissioner Jackson stated that the agenda was planned and discussed planning quarterly.

Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission Liaison

Nothing to report.

IX. **Old Business**

a. **Strategic Plan**

The planning discussion touched on partnership with the library and the need for more presence in the community through the Marion times and Facebook.

Commissioners brainstormed possible sub committees to be tasked with:

1. Communication and outreach
2. Grants and strategic planning
3. Training

Commissioner Brown suggested an amendment adding Pride month under proclamations, on page 4.

Commissioner Jackson advised adding a line with a note stating that commissioners are to add three more subcommittees besides the executive one.

Commissioner Brazant moved to accept the strategic plan as written with an amendment to add pride month, seconded by commissioner Baulmer, motion passed.

b. MCRC 5-Year Anniversary

Commissioners brainstormed ideas on hosting a speaker in the upcoming quarter such as Bill Stone, someone with a law background.

Regarding the anniversary, commissioners discussed planning a social event and other ways to engage the community, highlighting the commission's role.

Commissioner Brazant suggested coordinating with the city communication manager to draft a press release.

Commissioners expressed their appreciation for having Holli Trenary as a guest.

X. **New Business**

a. Upcoming Community Events

i. ***Juneteenth*** –Viola Gibson Park on June 15th, 11-4 pm commissioners Brown & Forsyth-Christy will be presenting representing the commission.

ii. ***Marion Library Pride Event***- June 22nd, Commissioner Stoner.

Commissioner Nilles will draft a letter of support and send it to Marion Times

iii. ***CR PrideFest- NewBo City market on July 6***, 11 -4 pm. Commissioners Nilles, Jackson & Baumler will represent the commission.

XI. **Good of the Order**

Commissioner stoner shared news about his new part-time position at the Hiawatha Public Library and commissioner Brazant buying a new house.

Commissioner Forsyth-Christy will be teaching young students the impact of decisions on lending and credit trying to build those skills.

XII. **Adjournment**

Commissioner Nilles motioned to adjourn the meeting. Moved by Commissioner Baulmer, Seconded by Commissioner Brazant, the meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 3rd, 2019 at 6:30 pm at Marion City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue, Marion, Iowa.

Respectfully submitted by Amal Eltabir, City of Marion