

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

Marion City Hall
1225 6th Avenue
Marion, IA 52302

Commissioners Present: Jenifer Tibbets
Chris Stoner
Frederick Brown
Kent Jackson
Bret Nilles
Okpara Rice
Renaë Forsyth-Christy
Selita Jansen

Commissioners Absent: Kim Eiler
Danielle Brazant
Dave Baumler

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 6:30pm.
- II. **Roll Call/Introductions**
Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.
- III. **Public Response**
There was no public response.
- IV. **Director's Report**
A bill was approved by executive committee regarding complaints filed with the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights in May. Both cases were related to employment race and sex issues. The report also presented upcoming outreach activities and events.
- V. **Approval of Minutes from June Meeting**
Commissioner Jackson moved to approve the June minutes as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Jansen, the motion passed.

VI. **Report from Chair**

Commissioner Nilles – Comments on Library Pride Event

VII. **Committee Reports**

Executive Committee- Commissioner Jackson

The committee met on June 26th to plan the agenda. Short discussion on the five-year anniversary. Committee discussed possible speaker topics for the next quarter. The committee expressed interest in hosting:

1. Legal Perspective, Bill Stone
2. Service Animals speaker event.
3. Employment issues.

Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission Liaison - Renae Forsyth-Christy

Meeting was about strategic planning, SWOT plan, and goal setting.

VIII. **Old Business**

a. Strategic Plan

Commission added to the plan:

1. Recognizing June as Pride Month.
2. Sub-committees' as follows: volunteers list to be finalized next meeting.
 - a. Communication and outreach: Commissioners: Stoner, Tibbets, & Jensen
 - b. Grants and strategic planning-Commissioners: Brown, Rice, Jackson
 - c. Training: Tibbets

b. MCRC 5-Year Anniversary

Commissioners discussed planning a social event and other ways to highlight the commission, such as a news article, high-five for five years at Swamp Fox festival, Table banner, a 5-year ribbon, balloons, and a commission picture.

- c. Juneteenth –Viola Gibson Park on June 15th, 11-4 pm commissioners Brown & Forsyth-Christy covered the event on behalf of the commission. Event was well attended. About 150 people stopped by the booth. Commissioner brown appreciated the idea of sharing a booth with the CRCRC.
- d. Marion Library Pride Event- June 22nd, Commissioner Nilles, Stoner, and Tibbets were at the event. Commissioners shared their reflection on the event. Consensus was there is a dire need for more education efforts. Over 400 people circled through the event.

IX. **New Business**

- a. Speakers Discussion- Speakers were suggested for MCRC commissioners training as well as for community wide education and outreach:

1. Commissioner Eiler recommended Mark Hudson as a speaker on employment law topic.

2. Commissioner Rice suggested targeting discrimination in general.
3. Immigration intolerance.
4. Commissioner Tibbets suggested hosting an event quarterly at the library.

b. Upcoming Community Events:

- i. CR PrideFest-NewBO City Market- July 6- Commissioners Nilles, Jackson, & Baumler

X. **Good of the Order**

Discussion about hate in general prompted by Commissioner Forsyth-Christy mentioning her participation in protesting the fact that immigrant kids are held in cages at the US southern border.

XI. **Adjournment**

Commissioner Jackson moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Brown, the meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 7th, 2019 at 6:30 pm at Marion City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue, Marion, Iowa.

Respectfully submitted by Amal Eltabir, City of Marion