

**MARION CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**August 7th, 2019, 6:30 pm**

Marion City Hall  
1225 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Marion, IA 52302

**Commissioners Present:**

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

**Commissioners Absent:**

Okpara Rice  
Jenifer Tibbets

**Staff/Other Present:**

Amal Eltahir, City of Marion  
Amber Bisinger, 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. Director's Report**

The director report presented upcoming outreach activities and events.

Motion to approve a bill to reimburse City of Cedar Rapids regarding Cedar Rapids Civil Rights administrative time for the period of June 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, moved by Commissioner Baumler, Seconded by Commissioner Brazant, motion passed unanimously.

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

Commissioner Stoner moved to approve the July minutes as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Forsyth-Christy, motion passed.

VI. **Report from Chair**

Commissioner Nilles – Comments included in items on the agenda

VII. **Committee Reports**

*Executive Committee*- Commissioner Jackson

The committee met on July 17<sup>th</sup> to plan the agenda. Shortly discussed speakers' topics and upcoming community events.

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

City Council approved FY2020 plan.

2018 Annual report is available

Stephanie stepping up to do social media.

Hired Mercer for the Executive Director position

VIII. **Old Business**

a. Strategic Plan Sub-Committees

1. Sub-committees' as follows:

- a. Communication and outreach: Commissioners: Stoner, Tibbets, & Jensen
- b. Grants and strategic planning-Commissioners: Brown, Rice, Jackson, Nilles
- c. Training: Tibbets, Eiler, Forsyth-Christy

Commissioner Nilles suggested setting up times for committees to meet for action planning. Sub-committees will coordinate times and frequency.

b. MCRC 5-Year Anniversary

Commissioners discussed planning a social event for the occasion. Hickory Room at Lowe Park is reserved for the September 4<sup>th</sup> commission meeting 6 to 9 PM. The public, City Council, and Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission are invited to celebrate MCRC. The program is set to include a speaker.

The commission also discussed orders for promotional items.

IX. **New Business**

a. Upcoming Events

- i. Farmer Market-Uptown Marion Market-August 10<sup>th</sup> , 8 Am to 12 PM-Commissioners Forsyth-Christy & Jansen will be representing the commission
- ii. Intercultural Festival – Tuma Soccer Complex- August 24<sup>th</sup> -12 to 2:30-Commissioners Nilles & Baumler
- iii. Five Seasons Stand Down - September 6<sup>th</sup>. – Commissioners Eiler & Jackson
- iv. Marion Swamp Fox Parade-Sept.28<sup>th</sup> 9:30 Am-Commissioners Baumler & Rice
- v. Latino Festival- Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM- Commissioners Brown & Nilles

b. **Proclamation of Support for Victims of Hate Crime**

Commissioner Brazant presented a draft proclamation in support of victims of hate crimes and condemning hate. Commissioner Jackson motioned to approve the proclamation, seconded by Commissioner Brazant, motion passed. Commissioner Brazant will attend council meeting to accept the proclamation on behalf of the commission.

X. **Good of the Order**

Commissioner Brazant wrote thoughts about hate and recent events and is sending them to the Des Moines Register and the papers in Texas

XI. **Adjournment**

Commissioner Nilles motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 pm and to take a group picture.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 6:30 pm at Hickory Hall, Lowe Park, 4500 N. 10th Street

*Respectfully submitted by Amal Eltabir, City of Marion*