

**MARION CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday September 2nd, 2020, 6:30 pm
Location: Zoom Webinar ID: 856 6114 2208**

Commissioners Present:

Frederick Brown
Jenifer Tibbets
Bret Nilles
Kent Jackson
Chris Stoner
Kim Eiler
Okpara Rice
Dave Baumler
Danielle Brazant
Selita Jansen

Commissioners Absent:

Renae Forsyth-Christy

Staff/Other Present:

Amal Eltahir, City of Marion
Stefanie Munsterman-Scriven, Executive Director

I. Call to Order

Noting there was a quorum, Commissioner Jackson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

II. Roll Call/Introductions

Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

III. Public Response

There was no public response.

IV. Director's Report

Staff continue to work remotely. In an article in *Our CR magazine*, the director talked about how civil rights connect with sustainability.

The documentary the 13th was discussed as part of a community discussions under the theme: Together let us create a community of belonging.

Civil Rights virtual book study is discussing "So you want to Talk about Race" by Ijeoma Oluo.

V. **Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Rice moved to approve the August minutes as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Stoner, motion passed.

VI. **Report from Chair**

Commissioner Jackson discussed possible civil rights training material that commissioner Rice had shared, suggesting using the training material for school kids' education. Commissioner shared news about the CDC's freeze on evictions.

VII. **Committee Reports**

- a. *Executive Committee*- Commissioners met on August 26th to set the agenda.
- b. *Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission Liaison* - Renae Forsyth-Christy Commission did not meet in August.
- c. *Communication and outreach Committee* -Commissioner Stoner Commissioner met with the city's communications manager, Amber Bisinger regarding social media regular civil rights educational material posts. Plan is to be developed.

VIII. **Unfinished Business**

- a. Community Equity Taskforce
Amal mentioned that the Marion Alliance for Racial Equity group (MARE) named Circe Stumbo and Janessa Carr as the members to serve on the taskforce and the Marion Civil Rights Commission elected the Chair and Vice Chair as their serving members. The city will follow boards and commissions process for the community at-large appointments. Applications are now open with city clerk being the point person.

IX. **New Business**

- a. Derecho Impact
Commissioner Rice along with other local no-profits organizations leaders were invited to a round table discussion to debrief senator Grassley and to talk about low income needs.
Commissioner Tibbets is meeting with the Linn County Board of supervisors to discuss affordable housing issues. Commissioner shed some light on a housing deficit is exacerbated by the disaster and greatly impacting the marginalized groups. Catherine McCarthy opened to shelter for refugees. With lack of resources and this overwhelming need, Commissioner sees that educating landlords may be warranted to help the situation. Commissioner called for the commission help with the landlords' conversation to highlight that Marion is a community of belonging.

X. **Good of the Order**

Commissioners discussed personal and work-related derecho impact.

XI. **Adjournment**

Commissioner Rice moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Baumler, the meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 7th, 2020 at 6:30 pm Via Zoom

Respectfully submitted by Amal Eltahir, City of Marion