

**MARION CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday January 6th, 2020, 6:30 pm
Location: Zoom Webinar ID: 897 8156 8601**

Commissioners Present:

Frederick Brown
Jenifer Tibbets
Bret Nilles
Chris Stoner
Dave Baumler
Okpara Rice
Kent Jackson
Selita Jansen
Angelica Vannatta
Danielle Brazant
Renaë Forsyth-Christy

Commissioners Absent:

Staff/Other Present:

Amal Eltahir, City of Marion
Stefanie Munsterman-Scriven, Executive Director
Ana Clymer
Circe Stumbo
Unknow attendee JF

- 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**
None

IV. **Director's Report**

Staff continues to work remotely due to COVID-19.

As a follow up on the 21-Day Equity Challenge and in partnership with United Way, the department is hosting a series of equity conversations each Tuesday evening in February, from 6:30pm-8pm. Topics are based on United Way pillars: Feb 2nd about education, Feb 9th is about financial stability, Feb 16th is about health, Feb 23rd is about next steps, all towards creating a community of belonging. Commissioner Rice will be speaking at one of the events. Regarding intakes, the department referred one call to the state's civil rights commission.

V. **Approval of Minutes**

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

VI. **Report from Chair**

Commissioner Jackson urged commissioners to watch the national news and congratulated Commissioner Brown on winning a prestigious Collins Aerospace ACCEPT award for going above and beyond to champion an inclusive workplace. Acronym stands for: Affirming Culture, Creativity, Encouraging Pride, and Trust.

Commissioner introduced Angelica Vannatta to the commission.

Commissioner Vannatta expressed her eagerness and passion for serving as a commissioner.

VII. **Committee Reports**

a. *Executive Committee*- Commissioners met on December 30th to set the agenda. The Committee discussed Community Equity Taskforce, LMI Housing Assistance Grant, and volunteer opportunities.

b. *Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission Liaison* - Renae Forsyth-Christy Dr. White was elected to be the Chair and Anthony has stepped down from the Commission in November. Keith is stepping down from Affordable housing committee and two commissioners will take the responsibility.

c. *Communication and outreach Committee* -Commissioner Stoner Commissioner worked on a post promoting the Marion Low Income Housing grant and on FY21 plan for future engagements. Events were categorized into three major categories:

- Read and Respond
- Attend and Act

- Listen and Learn

Commissioners discussed the need for revamping the events calendar plan. Commissioners will review the strategic plan to identify gaps and areas for improvements.

VIII. Unfinished Business

a. Community Equity Taskforce

Commissioners Brown briefed the commission stating that the taskforce, on December 10th meeting, reviewed the purpose statement, priorities, and core values. Initial focus will be on policy review. Commissioner engaged the commission in a discussion on priorities suggesting the commission leads focus group community conversations to inform the commission's priorities and focus. Discussion will continue to the next commission meeting.

b. Marion Low Income Housing Assistance Grant

Commissioners Brown stated that application deadline is February 12th. Commissioner commended Commissioner Vannatta for pioneering the grant initiative.

- c. Events Planning: Item was discussed above along with community outreach committee report. Regarding MLK day, commission is planning on a mayoral proclamation and a social media post. Commissioner Vannatta invited the Commission to speak at the United-Way's equity conversations sessions.

IX. Good of the Order

Commissioners Rice shared that Black men of CR is hosting a webinar with Dr Reed around how to improve health outcomes for African Americans, extending his invitation to the Commission.

Circe Stumbo, through public comments, expressed gratitude for the commission's service and welcomed Commissioner Vannatta.

Commissioner Vannatta announced that United Way, as a part of the organization's priorities and commitment to social equity, added social impact volunteer award to its annual awards, recognizing those who strive to drive social equity through their volunteer work. Information is available on the United Way website.

X. Adjournment

Commissioner Baumler moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Forsyth-Christy, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.