



# MINUTES

## Civil Rights Commission

6:00 PM - Wednesday, July 7, 2021  
City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue

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*\*Minutes are in draft format until approved at the next meeting\**

The Civil Rights Commission of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met on Wednesday, July 7, 2021, at 6:00 PM, in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Selita Jansen, Frederick Brown, Okpara Rice, Angelica Vannatta, Kent Jackson, Chris Stoner, Bret Nilles, Dave Baumler, and Renae Forsyth-Christy

ABSENT: Jennifer Tibbetts

STAFF PRESENT: Amal Eltahir and Alicia Abernathey

OTHERS PRESENT: Stefanie Munsterman-Scriven and Steve Moshier

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

### ROLL CALL

Commissioners, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

### PUBLIC FORUM

Steve Moshier stated he is present as a member of the Community Equity Task Force. The task force has discussed how their initiatives will carryover to the Civil Rights Commission. Moshier stated the task force will not always be a group and someone will need to take over the work and the Commission should be engaged now to ensure a successful transfer.

Jackson asked if the task force has an idea of when their work will end. Moshier stated he is not sure. Eltahir stated a consultant was brought on board to facilitate the work, but it is unclear as to when the work will be wrapped up for hand off. Vannatta asked if other organizations have shared an interest in taking on the work if it's not the Commission. Moshier stated others have not come forward and the task force has had minimal discussions about handing off the work. Vannatta asked if the consultant attends task force meetings. Brown stated the consultant met with small groups to get their feedback before meeting with the task force as a whole at the June meeting. Baumler asked if the task force will outline expectations of the Commission when handing over the work.

Brown stated the overall recommendations of the task force will be shared and the Commission will be made aware of them before agreeing to take on the work.

## **PRESENTATIONS/GUEST SPEAKERS - None**

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **Motion to approve the June 2, 2021 minutes**

Moved by Forsyth-Christy, seconded by Vannatta, to approve the June 2, 2021 minutes.  
Approved unanimously

### **Executive Committee Report**

Bret Nilles arrived at 6:13 p.m.

Jackson stated the Commission will meet this Saturday to discuss the strategic plan.

### **Cedar Rapids Executive Director's Report**

Stefanie Munsterman-Scriven, Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission (CRCRC) Executive Director, stated the pride panel discussion has been postponed until later in the month. Munsterman-Scriven shared information on upcoming outreach events and indicated CRCRC staff will return to the office Monday, July 12 with a phased approach to reopening to the public.

### **Cedar Rapids Liaison Report**

Forsyth-Christy stated she does not have a report. Jackson stated the Commission will eliminate the liaison role as Stefanie Munsterman-Scriven attends meetings and shares updates. Vannatta requested if Stefanie will not be present at an upcoming meeting a Commissioner attend the CRCRC meeting to give an update.

### **Communication and Outreach Committee Report**

Jansen stated the theme for August is National Night Out and asked if the CRCRC was planning any activities. Munsterman-Scriven stated the CRCRC is working on activities and will keep the Commission updated. Jansen requested the CRCRC communicate directly with Marion staff to promote upcoming events on social media and website.

### **Community Equity Task Force Report**

Brown stated the task force met with the consultant to discuss plans for moving forward. As a result of the discussion, subcommittees of the task force were disband and going forward all discussions of the task force will be held as a group. Brown stated the City Manager will meet with the Human Resources Director and other staff to review current policies and procedures to ensure equity and the elimination of bias. Brown stated a report out should be available at the next task force meeting. Brown stated an in depth discussion will be held at a future meeting regarding policing.

Elthair stated the policy review timeline has been modified as the policies are under legal review and the consultant is waiting for this review to be finalized before moving forward with the equity and bias review.

Vannatta asked who leads the task force and if the work of the task force will be impacted by Lon Pluckhahn's departure from the City. Brown stated the Mayor is the Chair of the task force and the consultant will take the lead on future discussions and keep the task force moving. Elthair stated the consultant is guiding the agenda and Tom Treharne will take Pluckhahn's place on the task force.

Rice asked if there has been progress. Brown stated there is not as much as progress as he would like to see but the task force is moving forward. Moshier stated he plans to introduce an idea to the task force that they also review the fire department because they only have one female employee. Rice asked if the fire chief was on the task force. Brown indicated she is not on the task force but the task force is working to ensure all voices are heard and everyone feels welcome.

Vannatta asked if the consultant could present to the Commission. Brown stated the consultant will be a guest speaker at a future meeting. Vannatta stated it would be great if Commissioners and staff participated in the 21-Day Equity challenge to show the community the City is dedicated to having an equitable and welcoming community.

#### **National Disability Independence Day: July 22, 2021**

Abernathy stated the National Disability Independence Day proclamation will be presented at the July 22 City Council meeting and asked for a volunteer to accept the proclamation. Nilles volunteered to accept the proclamation.

#### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Rice stated he will forward an email to Elthair to share with the Commission. Rice stated Commissioners should be aware of the tone of the email. Rice stated Commissioners should also view the PBS Special "Divided We Fall".

Vannatta stated the moratorium on evictions was extended to the end of July.

Brown stated he is relocating out of Marion and will be stepping down from the Commission in September, which will open up the Vice Chair position. Jackson stated the Vice Chair election will be held at the next meeting.

Rice stated the youth man that recently passed away in the Adventureland accident had connections to the Marion community. Rice stated if anyone wants to assist the family email him for information.

#### **ADJOURN**

Moved by Bret Nilles, seconded by Renae Forsyth-Christy to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

Approved unanimously

Respectfully submitted by:  
Alicia Abernathey, Administrative Assistant