



# MINUTES

## Civil Rights Commission

6:00 PM - Wednesday, August 3, 2022

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, August 3, 2022, at 6:00 PM, in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Denise Bridges, Okpara Rice, Angelica Vannatta, Bret Nilles, Dave Baumler, Renae Forsyth-Christy, Steven Moshier, and Jo-Smith Brizard

ABSENT: Kent Jackson, Jennifer Tibbetts, and Rafaela Cadena

STAFF PRESENT: Alicia Abernathey

OTHERS PRESENT: Stefanie Munsterman-Scriven

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

### ROLL CALL

Commissioners, staff and guests introduced themselves.

### PUBLIC FORUM

No one from the public wished to speak.

### REGULAR AGENDA

#### Motion to approve the June 1, 2022 minutes

Moved by Nilles, seconded by Moshier, to approve the June 1, 2022 minutes.

Approved unanimously

#### Cedar Rapids Executive Director/Liaison Report (Stefanie/Renae)

Stefanie Munsterman-Scriven, Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission (CRCRC) Executive Director, provided an update on recent CRCRC community outreach and upcoming projects. Munsterman-Scriven stated two new investigators recently started with the CRCRC and the CRCRC recently voted to issue a statement regarding Roe v. Wade.

Forsyth-Christy stated Dr. Ruth White was reelected as the CRCRC Chair and Linda Topinka was reelected as the CRCRC Vice Chair. Forsyth-Christy requested

Munsterman-Scriven share comments from Dr. White with the Commission. Forsyth-Christy stated the CRCRC has three new Commissioners.

Nilles asked what the current caseload was for CRCRC and if there are any particular trends. Munsterman-Scriven stated there was a decrease in cases in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Munsterman-Scriven stated the CRCRC is currently seeing a trend in retaliation cases, especially in the area of housing. Munsterman-Scriven stated the current volume of cases is increasing, but they are not what they were prior to 2020.

Vannatta requested Munsterman-Scriven provide information on the Alliance for Equitable Housing Committee. Munsterman-Scriven explained the purpose of the committee and her role in the committee as Co-Chair. Vannatta stated she feels there may be opportunity for the Commission to work with the Alliance for Equitable Housing Committee.

### **Staff Liaison Report (Alicia)**

Abernathy provided the staff liaison report including updates on initiatives that came out of the City's equity taskforce. The updates included the review of the City's personnel policies, an update on the new data collection software purchased by the police department, and recent implicit bias training provided to the police department. Abernathy provided additional updates including information shared by the police department regarding school resource officers, the Commission's ordinance review, the City's restroom and locker room policy, and information on recent inquiries and intakes filed with the Commission.

### **Equity Statement Discussion (Steve/Alicia)**

Moshier explained three Commissioners provided feedback on the equity statement and a Google document was shared with four Commissioners to continue discussions. Moshier stated an agreement was not reached and therefore it was recommended the equity statement return to the full Commission for discussion. The Commission discussed various components of the statement and agreed to modify the equity statement as follows:

- Keep the highlighted paragraph from page 16 of the agenda packet.
- Keep the highlighted paragraph from page 18 of the agenda packet with the modification of the last sentence to "The role of the City of Marion in advancing equity is eliminating disproportionalities so that socialized identities can no longer be used to predict success."
- Keep the highlighted verbiage from page 23 of the agenda packet.

The final agreed upon equity statement in its entirety is attached.

Moved by Rice, seconded by Baumler, to approve the statement as outlined in discussions.

Approved unanimously

[Equity Statement](#)

Abernathy outlined next steps in the process. Vannatta stated she would like to discuss

the communication strategy for the statement at an upcoming Commission meeting.

### **Community Outreach Discussion (All)**

The Commission discussed various upcoming outreach events, upcoming proclamations and debriefed recent outreach events the Commission participated in.

Moshier stated he met with the Mayor to discuss the City partnering with the African American Museum.

### **Commission Media Releases (Angelica)**

Vannatta shared the new process for Commission initiated media releases and indicated a recent media release went out on behalf of Commission and City. The Commission discussed the new process and the recent media release.

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

No one from the public wished to speak.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Vannatta stated Commissioner Cadena stepped down from the Commission and asked Commissioners to encourage people to apply to fill the vacancy. Vannatta stated Jason Glass, the Chair of the Iowa City Human Rights Commission, will come to the Commission meeting in September to observe.

Moshier stated the Waterloo Human Rights Commission is planning to reenact the March on Washington from 1963 on August 20th. Moshier shared information regarding an event on August 14th focused on a constitutional amendment related to gun rights.

Rice stated Tanager Place is planning a speaker series and asked Commissioners to email him recommendations on guest speakers.

### **ADJOURN**

Moved by Moshier, seconded by Forsyth-Christy, to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m.  
Approved unanimously

Respectfully submitted by:  
Alicia Abernathey, Executive Assistant