



MINUTES

Civil Rights Commission

6:00 PM - Wednesday, November 2, 2022

City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue

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, November 2, 2022, at 6:00 PM, in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 1225 6th Avenue, with the following members present:

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

ABSENT: Jennifer Tibbetts and Renae Forsyth-Christy

STAFF PRESENT: Kara Bullerman, Alicia Abernathey and Kim Downs

OTHERS PRESENT: Stefanie Munsterman

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 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 October 5, 2022 minutes

Moved by Nilles, seconded by Moshier, to approve the minutes from October 5, 2022.

Approved unanimously

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

Stefanie Munsterman, Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission (CRCRC) Executive Director, shared updates on recent CRCRC outreach events and indicated the CRCRC recently got a new intern.

Staff Liaison Report (Alicia)

Alicia Abernathey, staff liaison, provided the monthly staff liaison report including updates on the equity statement, the City's personnel policy review and recent inquiries of the

Commission. Abernathey also stated the Commission's Rules of Practice will be updated following the adoption of the updated ordinance and staff is currently working with the CRCRC to update the 28E Agreement to adequately reflect the staffing services received from the CRCRC.

Community Outreach Discussion (All)

Vannatta stated an outreach committee meeting is scheduled for November 14th to discuss various outreach efforts. However, the majority of the outreach members will need to step down at end of year due to term limits. Therefore, there are limitations on what the outreach committee will address at the November 14th meeting. Vannatta indicated the Low to Moderate Income Housing grant application is on the horizon and reminder the Commission there were previous discussions about revamping the agreement and grading rubric. Abernathey confirmed the agreement has already been updated and Commissioners indicated there were no concerns with the grading rubric.

Chapter 31 Ordinance Update (Kara Bullerman)

Kara Bullerman, City Attorney, outlined the process for the ordinance approval and indicated the Commission makes a recommendation but City Council approves the ordinance. Bullerman outlined various proposed changes to the ordinance.

Commissioners provided feedback on various proposed changes including the desire to keep lawful source of income as a protected class without coverage of housing choice vouchers. The Commission discussed the pros and cons of staying at an 11 member board versus downsizing to 9 members. The Commission agreed to downsize the Commission to nine members, but allow for ex officio members.

Abernathey and Bullerman pointed out various discussion points would be addressed in an update to the Commission's Rules of Practice, instead of the ordinance, including hybrid meetings, guidelines for ex officio members and subcommittees.

Documents shared with the Commission during the discussion included comments from Commissioner Jennifer Tibbetts on proposed changes, Iowa Senate File 252 and verbiage from Kara Bullerman regarding proposed changes for keeping lawful source of income. These documents are available upon request.

PUBLIC FORUM

No one from the public wished to speak.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Moshier stated he would like the Commission to consider a new approach to the roll call portion of the agenda.

Bridges stated she would like the Commission and staff to consider hybrid options for meetings and indicated it would be great to have volunteers that can assist the Commission's work, but all volunteers should have training.

Brizard stated he would like to congratulate the Marion Police Department on finding the

teenagers who vandalized the uptown.

ADJOURN

Moved by Baumler, seconded by Brizard to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Approved unanimously

Respectfully submitted by:

Alicia Abernathey, Executive Assistant