



MINUTES

Civil Rights Commission

6:00 PM - Wednesday, February 1, 2023

Library, 1101 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, February 1, 2023, at 6:00 PM, in Community Room A of the Library, 1101 6th Avenue, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Denise Bridges, Okpara Rice, Angelica Vannatta, Steven Moshier, Cody Crawford, Jo-Smith Brizard, Renae Forsyth-Christy, and Katie Tanner

ABSENT: Kent Jackson

STAFF PRESENT: Kara Bullerman, Alicia Abernathey and Kim Downs

OTHERS PRESENT: Ana Clymer, Circe Stumbo, Jennifer Tibbetts and Denine Rushing

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Commissioners, staff and guests introduced themselves.

Crawford and Tanner shared their backgrounds and were welcomed as new Commissioners.

PUBLIC FORUM

Ana Clymer stated she is looking forward to the staff liaison report regarding the equity initiatives.

PRESENTATIONS/GUEST SPEAKERS

Open Meetings and Open Records Presentation - Kara Bullerman, City Attorney

Kara Bullerman, City Attorney, provided an overview of Iowa Open Meeting Law and the City's Public Records Request policy.

Code of Ethics Refresher - Kara Bullerman, City Attorney

Bullerman provided an refresher on the City's Code of Ethics policy.

REGULAR AGENDA

Motion to approve the December 7, 2022 minutes

Moved by Forsyth-Christy, seconded by Brizard, to approve the minutes from December 7, 2022.

Approved unanimously

Election of Chair

Abernathey stated Vannatta was nominated to continuing serving as Chair of the Commission and Vannatta expressed interest in continuing to serve as Chair.

Moved by Rice, seconded by Forsyth-Christy, to elect Commissioner Vannatta as Chair.

Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Bridges, Rice, Vannatta, Crawford, Brizard, Forsyth-Christy, and Tanner

Nays: Moshier

Election of Vice Chair

Abernathey stated Forsyth-Christy was nominated to serve as Vice Chair of the Commission and Forsyth-Christy expressed interest in serving as Vice Chair.

Moved by Rice, seconded by Bridges, to elect Commissioner Forsyth-Christy as Vice Chair.

Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Bridges, Rice, Vannatta, Crawford, Brizard, Forsyth-Christy, and Tanner

Nays: Moshier

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

Vannatta stated with Forsyth-Christy accepting the role of Vice Chair, Forsyth-Christy would like to step down from the role of Cedar Rapids liaison. Vannatta asked if there are any Commissioners interested in serving in that capacity. Moshier indicated there is not a need to fill the position as a written report is usually provided by the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission (CRCRC). The Commission was in agreement with not continuing the Cedar Rapids liaison role.

Forsyth-Christy stated the CRCRC did not have a January meeting.

Jennifer Tibbetts, CRCRC Investigator, shared information on CRCRC outreach efforts.

Staff Liaison Report (Alicia)

Abernathey provided the monthly staff liaison report including updates on the equity statement, the 2022 equity initiatives report, the low and moderate income housing assistance grant, the City's personnel policy review, various police department updates, and recent inquiries and intakes for discrimination matters.

Strategic Plan Check-In (All)

Vannatta asked the Commission if there is a desire to adopt the 2022 strategic plan as the plan for 2023 or if there is a desire to reevaluate the entire plan. The Commission discussed the pros and cons of readopting the plan versus revamping it. The Commission agreed to have a special session to discuss the strategic plan for 2023.

Community Outreach Discussion (All)

- **Presentation to Mayor's Youth Council**
- **Child Abuse Prevention Month**
- **Programming Partnerships**

Moshier indicated a presentation to the Mayor's Youth Council will allow for students to be educated on civil rights and they can share it with their peers.

Bridges stated the month of April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and a request has been made for Marion to participate in activities educating the public on the initiative. Bridges stated she will share additional information with the City.

Vannatta tabled the programming partnerships discussion for the strategic plan special meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM

Circe Stumbo shared comments related to the 2022 Equity Initiatives report and indicated questions on the report will be brought forward to City Council.

Ana Clymer shared comments related to the 2022 Equity Initiatives report. Clymer shared comments related to items discussed during the staff liaison report.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Brizard asked if promotional materials for outreach events have been reordered.

Abernathey stated the outreach committee started the conversation, but there is a need to revamp the committee membership as several committee members are no longer on the Commission. Brizard and Bridges volunteered to serve on the outreach committee.

Tanner requested a copy of the recommendations from the Community Equity Taskforce.

ADJOURN

Moved by Forsyth-Christy, seconded by Brizard, to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Approved unanimously

Respectfully submitted by:
Alicia Abernathey, Executive Assistant