



MINUTES

Civil Rights Commission

6:00 PM - Wednesday, July 5, 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, July 5, 2023, at 6:00 PM, in Community Room A of the Library, 1101 6th Avenue, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Kent Jackson, Megan Middaugh, Okpara Rice, Angelica Vannatta, Steven Moshier, and Cody Crawford

ABSENT: Denise Bridges, Renae Forsyth-Christy, and Katie Tanner

STAFF PRESENT: Alicia Abernathey

OTHERS PRESENT: Jennifer Tibbetts and Ana Clymer

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC FORUM

No one from the public was present.

REGULAR AGENDA

Motion to approve the June 7, 2023 minutes

Moved by Middaugh, seconded by Rice, to approve the June 7, 2023 minutes.

Approved unanimously

Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission (CRCRC) Report

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

Vannatta asked for additional information on the HOPEwalk. Tibbetts indicated CRCRC was invited as a guest speaker, but there will not be an opportunity for an outreach table.

Staff Liaison Report

Abernathey provided the monthly staff liaison report including updates on the City's efforts to use more inclusive language in the Code of Ordinances and intake and inquires

received by the Commission.

Commission Bylaws

- **Review and Discussion of proposed Bylaws**
- **Vote to adopt the Bylaws**

The Commission discussed the proposed bylaws. Abernathey provided answers to questions previously submitted to staff by Commissioners.

The Commission discussed adding additional language regarding an Acting Chairperson if the Chair and Vice Chair are both absent, requiring agenda items be submitted in writing or via motion requiring requests for agenda items be approved or denied in writing and adding language regarding 28E agreements and the complaint process. Abernathey stated she will follow up with the City Attorney and the bylaws will be reviewed again at the August meeting.

Strategic Plan Check-In

The Commission discussed the upcoming coffee gathering with the Marion Chamber of Commerce. Middaugh and Abernathey shared outcomes of the outreach plan subcommittee meeting.

Community Outreach Discussion

The Commission discussed various upcoming outreach events.

PUBLIC FORUM

Ana Clymer indicated the equity statement page on the City's website does not include the Marion Alliance on Racial Equity (MARE). Clymer thanked the Commission for their proactive response to outreach events and shared information on an upcoming event MARE is putting on.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Moshier asked if the Commission was still considering joining Council office hours. Vannatta stated it can be considered as part of an upcoming agenda.

Moshier shared details of a recent community event.

Vannatta reminded the Commission that guest speakers should be tie to civil rights.

ADJOURN

Vannatta adjourned the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Alicia Abernathey, Executive Assistant