



# MINUTES

## Civil Rights Commission

6:00 PM - Wednesday, August 2, 2023

Library, 1101 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 2, 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, Denise Bridges, Okpara Rice, Angelica Vannatta, Steven Moshier, Cody Crawford, Renae Forsyth-Christy, and Katie Tanner

STAFF PRESENT: Kara Bullerman, Alicia Abernathey and Kim Downs

OTHERS PRESENT: Cliff Haynes

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

### PUBLIC FORUM

No one from the public was present.

### PRESENTATIONS/GUEST SPEAKERS

Rice joined the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

Cliff Haynes, American Red Cross of Nebraska and Iowa, provided an overview of the American Red Cross and indicated he was interested in learning more about the Commission in order to build a connection to assist people during a disaster. Discussion took place on what the Commission does, specifics of what American Red Cross does, how the two can partner and other resources for the American Red Cross to consider.

### REGULAR AGENDA

#### Motion to approve the July 5, 2023 minutes

Tanner pointed out one grammatical error.

Moved by Rice, seconded by Tanner, to approve the July 5, 2023 minutes with one correction.

Approved unanimously

#### Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission (CRCRC) Report

No one from the CRCRC was present, but a report was included in the agenda packet.

### **Staff Liaison Report**

Abernathey provided the monthly staff liaison report including updates on upcoming outreach events, a recent records request, and a change to the meeting location for the September Commission meeting.

### **Commission Bylaws**

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

Abernathey and Kara Bullerman, City Attorney, outlined changes made to the bylaws following discussion at the previous Commission meeting. The Commission discussed the proposed bylaws.

Moved by Forsyth-Christy, seconded by Middaugh, to adopt the bylaws as presented.

Approved by the following votes:

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

Abstained: Moshier

### **Outreach Plan**

- **Review and Discussion of proposed Outreach Plan**
- **Vote to adopt the Outreach Plan**

Vannatta stated an ad hoc committee drafted an outreach plan for the Commission. Abernathey stated staff reviewed the plan and made a few recommendations for changes to the plan. Bullerman indicated staff is not recommending the raising of any flag be included in the plan and provided reasons why. The committee shared what was done to establish the elements of the recommended plan. Based on discussion and feedback from the Commission, it was decided the committee will meet again to continue discussions on the plan.

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

No one from the public was present.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Moshier shared what took place at the Youth Allyship community event on July 26 that was hosted by the Marion Alliance for Racial Equity.

### **ADJOURN**

Vannatta adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Alicia Abernathey, Executive Assistant