



# MINUTES

## Civil Rights Commission

6:00 PM - Wednesday, November 1, 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, November 1, 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: Alicia Abernathey, Kim Downs, and Jenna Silver

OTHERS PRESENT: Jennifer Tibbetts

### CALL TO ORDER

Renae Forsyth-Christy, Vice Chair, presided over the meeting.

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

### PUBLIC FORUM

No one from the public was present.

### REGULAR AGENDA

#### Motion to approve the October 4, 2023 minutes

Moved by Crawford, seconded by Moshier, to approve the October 4, 2023 minutes.

Approved unanimously

#### Staff Liaison Report

Abernathey provided the monthly staff liaison report including an update on the December 2023 meeting, 2024 scheduled meetings and current vacancies. Abernathey will follow up with calendar invites for the 2024 meetings.

Angelica Vannatta, Chair, arrived at 6:04 p.m. and presided over the meeting.

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

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

Tibbetts communicated that CRCRC had an investigator recently leave and they are having interviews next week.

### **Outreach Plan Check In**

Commissioners volunteered for various outreach efforts outlined in the outreach plan. Discussion was had as to where each Commissioner was with the activities they had previously signed up for.

### **Community Outreach Discussion**

Forsyth-Christy brought forth her idea for a colorful sidewalk design in the Uptown Artway for Pride and an event with vendors. Abernathey shared staff would work on the logistics of this idea and asked the Commission if this is achievable with the current outreach plan. Bridges gave feedback that this year the sidewalk design in the Uptown Artway would be sufficient. Crawford spoke about talking to businesses that the Commission would help if a business wanted to host an event. Rice stated Tanager Place would provide \$1,000 for the Uptown Artway sidewalk design project.

Abernathey asked for a volunteer to accept the Human Rights Day proclamation on December 7. Vannatta tentatively volunteered.

Moshier provided information about an upcoming MLK event and invited the Commission to participate in the panel discussion.

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Jennifer Tibbetts shared ideas about Pride outreach and activities and encouraged the Commission to consider inclusivity while planning events.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Vannatta shared her appreciation and gratitude towards Moshier and Rice for their time and contributions to the Commission. Other Commissioners shared appreciation to Vannatta, Moshier and Rice as they step down from the Commission.

### **ADJOURN**

Vannatta adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jenna Silver, Administrative Assistant