



MINUTES

Civil Rights Commission

6:00 PM - Wednesday, May 1, 2024
Marion Public 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, May 1, 2024, at 6:00 PM, in the Boardroom of the Marion Public Library, 1101 6th Avenue, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Dylan Brooks-Forseth, Kathy Hagler, Denise Bridges, Renae Forsyth-Christy, Katie Tanner, Mary Beth O'Neill, and Brian Chubb

ABSENT: Kent Jackson and Cody Crawford

STAFF PRESENT: Alicia Abernathey and Kim Downs

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL / INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioners and staff shared introductions to welcome two new Commissioners.

PUBLIC FORUM

No one from the public was present.

REGULAR AGENDA

Motion to approve the April 3, 2024 minutes

Moved by O'Neill, seconded by Chubb, to approve the April 3, 2024 minutes.

Approved unanimously

Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission Report

No one from the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission was present.

Staff Liaison Report

Executive Assistant Alicia Abernathey provided the staff liaison report including an update on intakes and inquiries.

Low and Moderate Income Housing Assistance Grant

- 2024 Award Recommendation
- Vote of Approval for the 2024 Award

2024 Award Recommendation

Tanner stated two applications were received including a request from Marion Ministry and Outreach for \$5,000 and a request from Marion Cares for \$50,000. Tanner indicated \$62,000 was available in funding this year and the Committee agreed to provide \$5,000 to Marion Ministry and Outreach and \$57,000 to Marion Cares. Deputy City Manager Kim Downs provided background of where the funding comes from and why the amount was higher this year. Downs indicated there will not be an LMIHAG next year as the funds will need to build back up in the account.

Vote of Approval for the 2024 Award

Moved by Tanner, seconded by Bridges, to approve awarding \$5,000 in Low to Moderate Income Housing Assistance grant funding to Marion Ministry and Outreach and \$57,000 to Marion Cares.

Approved unanimously

April Fair Housing Event Debrief

Commissioners provided feedback from the April Fair Housing event including:

- limiting the time guest speakers have to present
- narrowing the scope of content the guest speakers spoke about
- expanding marketing of the event
- providing marketing materials to targeted populations
- providing a virtual component to attend the event
- recording and sharing the presentations
- considering having the event earlier in the year or earlier in April
- considering weekend events instead of weeknights

Community Outreach Discussion

Forsyth-Christy indicated the Outreach Plan Committee is meeting on May 13 to finalize the outreach plan for July - December 2024. Brooks-Forseth volunteered to write social media content for Pride Month. The Commission agreed to attend the Veterans Stand Down event in September. Abernathey will coordinate attendance at the event.

PUBLIC FORUM

No one from the public was present.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

No Commissioners wished to speak.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Alicia Abernathey, Executive Assistant