



City of Cedar Rapids  
Civil Rights Commission  
**Outreach & Education Committee Meeting Minutes**  
Monday, August 15, 2016  
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

**Commissioners Present:** Mr. Leland Freie  
Mr. Esaie Toingar

**Staff Present:** Ms. LaSheila Yates, Executive Director  
Mr. Bernie Walther, Investigator  
Ms. Alicia Abernathey, Administrative Assistant

**Call to Order** – Leland Freie, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Commissioner Freie moved to amend the agenda to add a New Business section with an agenda item to assign a new chair. Commissioner Toingar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes** – There were no corrections to the April 18, 2016 or June 6, 2016 minutes. Therefore, they stand approved.

**Old Business** –

**1. Outreach Report**

Bernie Walther, Investigator, stated the Commission received a thank you card from the Cedar Rapids Public Library for our participation in their end of summer celebration on July 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Walther stated Donna the Anti-Discriminatory Dolphin made an appearance and staff distributed popcorn. Mr. Walther stated a thank you card was also received by the U.S. Attorney's Office for our participation and attendance at their Re-Entry Event on July 26<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Walther stated staff had been providing employment training to ASAC staff members and additional trainings will take place in the fall. Mr. Walther reviewed the various presentations staff conducted in June and July and the various meetings attended on behalf of the Commission. Mr. Walther identified the upcoming training and outreach opportunities including the Public Accommodations & ADA Training hosted by the Commission, Veterans Stand Down Event, Festival Latino and the "Legacies" Diversity Speaker Series.

LaSheila Yates, Executive Director, stated the first "Legacies" Diversity Speaker Series will focus on Black Women. Ms. Yates identified the various speakers and their topic. Ms. Yates stated the speaker series will model TED Talks.

**2. Upcoming Outreach Events**

Mr. Walther stated staff will meet with potential partners to discuss a Veterans ADA presentation that will focus on employment and housing. The goal is to have the training in November. Mr. Walther stated the Commission plans to host another Martin Luther King Jr. Day movie night at the Library but dates will need to be discussed as the Library is not open on Martin Luther King Jr. Day or on Sundays. Mr. Walther stated staff is working with the Department of Corrections to

offer an offender re-entry program training. Mr. Walther stated staff is also working on a document literacy training with Immigrant Concerns and Iowa Legal Aid.

Ms. Yates stated a Community Cultural Expo will be held in the Spring and will include various interactive ways of learning about other cultures. International students at local colleges will be invited to provide a cultural learning opportunity.

Commissioner Toingar stated he is trying to organize something that allows refugees and immigrants to be connected to the community. Commissioner Toingar stated he is also working to provide an opportunity for immigrants and refugees to share concerns with the Police Department and also learn about local laws. Commissioner Toingar stated he is working to organize an event for immigrants and refugees that will allow them to share their stories and also participate in a game of soccer.

## **New Business –**

### **1. Appoint a New Chair**

Commissioner Toingar nominated Commissioner Freie to serve as Chair. Through unanimous agreement it was determined Commissioner Freie would serve as the Chair of the Outreach Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Alicia Abernathy*