

**CEDAR RAPIDS CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

March 19, 2014

5:30pm

Civil Rights Commission Office

425 Second Street SE

Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

Commissioners Present: Ms. Emily Bowman
Rev. Tom Capo
Ms. Tamara Cronin
Mr. Leland Freie
Ms. Barb Gay, Vice Chair
Ms. Paulette Hall
Ms. Salma Igram
Mr. Keith Rippy, Chair
Mr. Robin Tucker
Dr. Ruth White

Commissioners Absent: Ms. Laura O'Leary

Staff Present: Mr. John-Paul Chaisson-Cárdenas, Executive Director
Ms. Stefanie Munsterman-Robinson, Investigator
Ms. Janet Abejo, Investigator
Ms. Monica Challenger, Education & Outreach Coordinator

Staff Absent: Ms. Jeanette Gordon, Administrative Assistant
Mr. Zadok Nampala, Intern

Guests: Kevin Platz, Cedar Rapids Area Association of Realtors
Mari Davis, Rental Solutions
Joseph Stutler, Citizen

I. Call to Order

Noting there was a quorum, Commissioner Rippy, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.

II. Roll Call/Introductions

Commissioners, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

III. Public Response

Mr. Platz announced that they had received a Housing Opportunities Grant and a diversity grant. They will be sponsoring a networking event at the end of the Fair Housing Summit.

IV. Approval of Minutes from February Meeting

After looking over the minutes, Commissioner Igram moved to approve the minutes from the February meeting; Commissioner Tucker seconded the motion. The minutes were approved without changes.

V. **Report from Chair**

Commissioner Rippey, Chair, reported that he and Executive Director Chaisson-Cárdenas met with the Public Safety Committee to present the State of Equity information. They also met with the City Manager and the Assistant City Manager to answer questions. Most questions were about where the data came from. The City is taking a leadership role in our summit, and are very supportive.

VI. **Committee Reports**

Finance

Commissioner Igram, Finance Committee Chair, reported that the committee met on March 19, and finances are as expected. The committee went over the Summit budget. We have \$50k for the summit and \$74k for outreach. A few agencies will be receiving allocated funds, such as Waypoint, Catherine McCauley Center, Tanager Place, etc. The list is not finalized, but if you have any questions, contact Executive Director Chaisson-Cárdenas.

Outreach and Education

Commissioner Cronin reported that the committee met March 18 and talked about the Housing Summit plans. Information on awards was passed around and discussed. Possible awards are: Community Advocate Award, Community Organization Award, Business Catalyst, and In Memorium. Any feedback concerning the awards should be directed to the Outreach and Education committee.

LGBT Capacity Building

Commissioner Gay reported that the committee met with local and state groups and focused on what the future should look like. There will be a summit this summer.

VII. **Director's Report**

Mr. Chaisson-Cárdenas, Executive Director, reported on the following:

- Hiring – staff will review the approximately 20 screened applicants to select folks to interview.
- Letter of Commitment with the school district – We are working on a letter of understanding with the Cedar Rapids Community School District. When there is bullying in school, we will lean on their protocols, but if it comes to us, we will return it to the school, but do a desk audit on it. We will have the oversight and we have jurisdiction over the schools.
- Summit – I have been asked to lead and facilitate the Mayor's youth initiative. I will be working with City Council and Directors to see what that should look like and the first meeting is tomorrow at 7:30pm. It is an honor and a vote of confidence.
- Fire Truck Referral – There was national media on the fire truck issue. It is not an investigation as we do not investigate the city. Everything we've done has been very amicable. Despite the aura in the media, it's been one of the nicest processes. I sent a draft to you of what we have come up with. Thanks to Reverend Capo, we will know if the Interfaith Alliance will approve. It looks like we'll have a very nice solution.
- Process Workflow – Janet and Stefanie went through the revised workflow.

VIII. **Old Business**

None.

IX. **New Business:**
None.

X. **Adjournment**
Commissioner Rippy, Chair, asked that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Freie moved to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Igram seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:36pm.

The next meeting will be held on April 23, 2014 at 3:30pm at the DoubleTree Hotel and Convention Center, 350 1st Ave. NE.

Respectfully submitted by Jeanette Gordon