

CEDAR RAPIDS CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION (CRCRC)

MEETING MINUTES

November 16, 2016 5:30 p.m.

Civil Rights Commission

50 2nd Avenue Bridge

Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

Commissioners Present: Ms. Salma Igram, Chair
Mr. Keith Rippy, Vice Chair
Ms. Laura O’Leary
Mr. Esaie Toingar
Dr. Ruth White
Mr. Keith Wiggins

Commissioners Absent: Mr. Leland Freie

Staff Present: Ms. LaSheila Yates, Executive Director
Ms. Alicia Abernathy, Administrative Assistant

Guests: Joe Ellis

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Igram, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

II. Roll Call/Introductions

Commissioners, staff and guests introduced themselves.

III. Public Response

No public response.

IV. Approval of Minutes from the October Meeting

Commissioner Rippy moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner White seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

V. Report from Chair

Commissioner Igram, Chair, welcomed LaSheila Yates back and thanked Commissioner Rippy for covering the previous meeting.

VI. Committee Reports

Outreach Committee Liaison

LaSheila Yates, Executive Director, stated the Outreach Committee met and reviewed various outreach activities that took place throughout the last few months.

Finance Committee Liaison

Commissioner Igram, Chair, stated the Finance Committee met and discussed the closeout budget for FY16 and the current status of the FY17 budget. The Commission is out of the deficit from 2013.

Marion Civil Rights Commission Liaison

Joe Ellis, Marion Civil Rights Commission, stated the Marion Civil Rights Commission had a guest speaker from Lynch Law Firm in November and will have Commissioner Shirley Pantini as the

guest speaker in December. Mr. Ellis stated the Marion Civil Rights Commission reviewed the most recent 28E Agreement and passed their findings on to the City Attorney.

VII. Diversity Focus Roles Follow Up

Commissioner Rippy, Vice Chair, stated he brought up the matter at the last meeting and requested staff look into roles the Commission could take over since Diversity Focus is no longer an agency. Ms. Yates stated she reached out to members of the Diversity Focus board to see how the Commission could support them. Ms. Yates stated she has a meeting with Anne Carter, board member, on Friday to discuss some options. Ms. Yates stated one area of opportunity for support may be the Diversity Climate Survey but the financial aspect will also need to be determined. Ms. Yates stated it may not make sense for the Commission to take on some of the conferences and larger events that Diversity Focus hosted in the past.

Commissioner's stated they felt it was appropriate for the Commission to take over the Diversity Climate Survey. Ms. Yates stated she would follow up with the Commission following her meeting with Anne Carter and when more information is available to share.

VIII. Director's Report

It was requested the December meeting be rescheduled to December 14th due to the holiday.

Ms. Yates stated the Commission won an award from the NAACP for Outstanding Service to the Community and it was presented to the Commission at the Freedom Fund event on October 29th. Ms. Yates stated she is now the Chair of the Iowa League of Human and Civil Rights Agencies.

IX. Adjournment

Commissioner Rippy moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:13 p.m. Commissioner White seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Alicia Abernathy