

CEDAR RAPIDS CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION (CRCRC)
MEETING MINUTES
March 9, 2016 5:30 p.m.
Civil Rights Commission
50 2nd Avenue Bridge
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

Commissioners Present: Mr. Keith Rippy, Chair
Ms. Salma Igram, Vice Chair
Mr. Leland Freie
Ms. Laura O’Leary
Ms. Ashley Reynolds
Mr. Robin Tucker
Mr. Keith Wiggins

Commissioners Absent: Dr. Emily Bowman
Dr. Ruth White

Staff Present: Ms. LaSheila Yates, Executive Director
Ms. Janet Abejo, Senior Investigator
Ms. Alicia Abernathey, Administrative Assistant

Guests: Bret Nilles, Patricia Kropf, Yvonne Aubrey, Paul Hayes, Autumn Pino

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Rippy, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

II. Roll Call/Introductions

Commissioners, staff and guests introduced themselves.

III. Public Response

No public response.

IV. Equity and Diversity in the Cedar Rapids Community School District

Paul Hayes, Cedar Rapids Community School District, provided statistics for employee diversity, student diversity, AP enrollment by ethnicity, Program for Academic and Creative Talent enrollment by ethnicity, and % graduated and enrolled in post-secondary institution by ethnicity.

Autumn Pino, Cedar Rapids Community School District, stated the teachers at Roosevelt Middle School are working to create an Equity Plan. The teachers participated in an activity where they had to bridge the gaps between a student’s and teacher’s perspective. Ms. Pino stated the teachers are also challenged to consider cultural backgrounds when a student is using informal English.

V. Approval of Minutes from February Meeting (reviewed and voted on following closed session)

Commissioner Igram moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

VI. Closed Session

The Commission may go into closed session to discuss the filing of one or more complaints, information gathered during investigation of such complaints, and attempts to eliminate such alleged discrimination pursuant to Iowa Code Sections 21.5(1)(a) and 216.15(5) (2012).

Pearson v. Seldin Properties, LLC

Commissioner Igram moved to go into closed session. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken. The motion carried on a unanimous vote and the Commission went into Closed Session at 6:24 p.m.

Commissioner Igram moved to return to open session. Commissioner Freie seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken. The motion carried on a unanimous vote and the Commission returned to Open Session at 6:54 p.m.

Commissioner Reynolds moved to continue with Judicial Review for the Pearson v. Seldin Properties, LLC case. Commissioner Igram seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

VII. Action Items

Review and Approve Revised 28E Agreement between the City of Cedar Rapids and the City of Marion

Commissioner Rippy stated Cedar Rapids representatives met with Marion representatives on two occasions to review and revise the 28E Agreement. The amended agreement clarifies roles of each Commission and outlines fees for service.

Commissioner Igram moved to approve the revised 28E Agreement between the City of Cedar Rapids and the City of Marion. Commissioner Freie seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

VIII. Report from Chair

No report.

IX. Committee Reports

Outreach Committee Liaison

Commissioner Reynolds stated the Committee met with Scott Ireland from KGAN. Staff is working with KGAN to create a Public Service Announcement that will focus on service and companion animals and will have 312 airings in the month of April. Commissioners are encouraged to submit outreach ideas for FY17 to Bernie by the end of May. The Committee reviewed an online training module and provided feedback to staff.

CRCSD Diversity Committee Liaison

No report.

Marion Civil Rights Commission Liaison

Bret Nilles, Marion Civil Rights Commission, stated there were 18 people in attendance at the StarPower event. Sara Buck provided a housing presentation at the March meeting.

X. Director's Report

Ms. Yates stated the 2015 Annual Report is complete and highlights programs and achievements from 2015. It also includes new information such as statistics for settlement agreements, referrals to other agencies and inquires for non-protected classes.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Alicia Abernathy