

CEDAR RAPIDS CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION (CRCRC)
MEETING MINUTES
May 18, 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
Dr. Emily Bowman
Mr. Leland Freie
Ms. Laura O’Leary
Ms. Ashley Reynolds
Mr. Robin Tucker
Dr. Ruth White

Commissioners Absent: Mr. Keith Wiggins

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

Guests: Bret Nilles

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Igram, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

II. Roll Call/Introductions

Commissioners, staff and guests introduced themselves.

III. Public Response

No public response.

IV. Approval of Minutes from the April Meeting

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

V. Action Items

Motion authorizing Chair Igram to sign the revised Final Order for the Pearson v. Seldin Properties, LLC case

Commissioner Igram stated the Commission agreed to settle with Seldin Properties, LLC and the final order is included in the packet for approval.

Commissioner White moved to authorize Chair Igram to sign the revised Final Order for the Pearson v. Seldin Properties, LLC case. Commissioner Rippy seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Reynolds and Commissioner O’Leary arrived at 5:33 p.m.

VI. Report from Chair

Commissioner Igram thanked Commissioner Rippy for his service as Chair and stated the Commission is on the right track with everything.

VII. **Committee Reports**

Marion Civil Rights Commission Liaison

Commissioner Tucker stated the Marion Civil Rights Commission celebrated their 2nd anniversary as a Commission and reviewed the 28E Agreement for approval.

Outreach Committee Liaison

Commissioner Bowman stated the Outreach Committee will meet on Monday but there are a few updates to share. Commissioner Bowman stated awards were presented to winners of the poster contest at their schools but one award still needs to be presented. A sign-up sheet was passed around for Commissioners to participate in summer events. Commissioner Bowman stated there are some vacancies for summer events now that Intern Sophie Belter accepted a position with the Omaha Human Rights Commission.

VIII. **Director's Report**

LaSheila Yates, Executive Director, stated staff is working with the Great Plains ADA to provide public accommodations training as a quarterly training. Ms. Yates stated staff is also working on a training that will be geared towards veterans in the area of employment. Ms. Yates stated staff will be incorporating these goals and others in the next Outreach Plan that will come before the Commission in June after being vetted out through the Outreach Committee.

IX. **Mission Moment – eLearning Fair Housing Training**

Ms. Yates stated upon her onboarding she had a vision of creating online trainings that would be an outlet for people to get training without having to schedule training with staff. Ms. Yates stated she provided a vision and direction to staff to complete the Fair Housing online training. Ms. Yates stated the training would not be possible without the work of Alicia, Judy, Janet and Bernie. Ms. Yates provided information on the training showing how it incorporates a welcome, training objectives, a sign-in page, a quiz, a certificate of completion and an area to provide feedback.

Ms. Yates stated a press release went out regarding the training and we have already received some feedback. Alicia Abernathy, Administrative Assistant, stated several people have taken the training so far from a wide variety of organizations. Some feedback was received that the training was very well thought out with challenging questions that forced people to think.

Commissioner Bowman stated the training was vetted out through the Outreach Committee and there were some challenging questions. Ms. Abernathy stated the feedback from the Committee shed light that while some things seem obvious to staff they are trick questions to others.

Bret Nilles arrived at 5:50 p.m.

X. **Adjournment**

Bret Nilles, Marion Civil Rights Commission (MCRC), stated the MCRC reviewed and approved the 28E Agreement. It will go before the Marion City Council at their first meeting in June.

Commissioner Bowman stated this is her last meeting with the Commission as her term ends June 30th and she will be out of the country the majority of June.

Commissioner Tucker moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:56 p.m. Commissioner Bowman seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Alicia Abernathy