CEDAR RAPIDS CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION (CRCRC)
MEETING MINUTES
July 20, 2016 5:30 p.m.
Civil Rights Commission
50 2nd Avenue Bridge
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

Commissioners Present: Ms. Salma Igram, Chair
Mr. Leland Freie
Ms. Laura O'Leary
Mr. Esaie Toingar

Commissioners Absent: Mr. Keith Rippy, Vice Chair
Dr. Ruth White
Mr. Keith Wiggins

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

Guests: Bret Nilles, Corbin Beastrom

I. **Call to Order**
Commissioner Igram, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

II. **Roll Call/Introductions**
Commissioners, staff and guests introduced themselves.

III. **Public Response**
Corbin Beastrom stated he is interning with the City Manager's Office and is currently pursuing a Master's in Public Administration. Mr. Beastrom stated he grew up in Iowa and saw what the flood of 2008 did to the community and how public officials stepped up and took action and inspired him to pursue a career in the public sector.

IV. **Approval of Minutes from the June Meeting**
Commissioner O'Leary moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Freie seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

V. **Action Items**
Review and Possible Approval of the FY17 Work Plan
LaSheila Yates, Executive Director, stated last year was the first year the Commission adopted a work plan. Ms. Yates stated she would like to thank the Commissioners for their support and leadership over the last year. One of the goals of the last work plan was Commissioner influence and over the last year Commissioners toured two other local Commissions to learn from them and have also represented the Commission at many cultural events.

Ms. Yates stated the last plan focused on four areas including employment, housing, education and commissioner influence. As part of the FY17 work plan, there is a section focused on the goals and outcomes from FY16. Ms. Yates identified some of the major accomplishments of FY16.

Commissioner Freie moved to approve the FY17 Work Plan following a grammatical review. Commissioner O'Leary seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

VI. Report from Chair

Commissioner Igram stated it is the first meeting of the new fiscal year and welcomed the new commissioner Esaie Toingar. Each Commissioner and staff member introduced themselves and provided a brief background on themselves to welcome Commissioner Toingar.

Bus Advertisements

Commissioner Igram stated the Commission has bus ads in the community through the end of July and they started in April. The ads allow people to learn about their rights and serves as an outreach opportunity.

Committee Reassignments

Commissioner Igram reviewed the revised committee assignments for FY17.

VII. Committee Reports

Marion Civil Rights Commission Liaison

Bret Nilles, Marion Civil Rights Commission, stated at the July meeting the Marion Commission was provided the second portion of train-the-trainer. Mr. Nilles stated four out of eleven members are up for reappointment in December. Mr. Nilles stated the Commission formed a subcommittee that is working to review the Commission's Standard Operating Procedures to ensure they are still accurate due to the amended 28E Agreement.

VIII. Director's Report

Ms. Yates stated the Commission has some partnerships on upcoming events. Last night there was a Knee to Knee Conversation on Race at CSPS sponsored by Flowmedia, Diversity Focus and the Commission. Ms. Yates stated a speaker series will begin on September 22nd and will be called Legacies. The series will allow people of different backgrounds to tell their stories and each series will focus on a different population such as African American women, persons with disabilities, Caucasian men, African American men, etc. Ms. Yates stated the Commission is also partnering with the Cedar Rapids Community School District to provide a Career Day to students. Ms. Yates stated the Commission will also partner to host a cultural expo in the spring.

Commissioner Freie left the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Ms. Yates stated the Commission is also working with organizations regarding reentry of ex-offenders. There is an event on July 26th at the Clarion Hotel that focuses on this topic. The Commission office will be closed that morning for staff to attend.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Alicia Abernathey