

CEDAR RAPIDS CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
Second Floor, Veterans Memorial Building
26 March 2008

Commissioners and staff met for the regular meeting of the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission at Noon, Wednesday, 26 March 2008, in the conference room, Civil Rights Commission office, 425 Second Street SE, Suite 960, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Commissioners Present: Ms. Miriam Amer, Chair
Mr. George Holmes, Vice Chair
Ms. Janet Johnson
Mr. Kavi Parupally
Mr. Roy Porterfield
Ms. Dolores Reisinger
Ms. Tara Youells
Ms. Nancy Lee Ziese

Commissioners Absent: Mr. Virgil Gooding
Mr. Momodu Kamara

Staff Present: Ms. Michelle McMurray, Investigator
Ms. LaSheila Yates, Investigator
Ms. Christina Larsen, Staff Administrative Assistant

Guests: Mr. Tom Podzimek, City Council Person

By general consensus, the order of the agenda was altered to allow accommodations of guests.

Mr. Podzimek addressed the Commissioners present giving a verbal presentation of the City's vision statement, its design and incorporation, and how it relates to the Civil Rights Commission.

Michelle McMurray introduced LaSheila Yates as the Commission's newest investigator. LaSheila addressed questions from the Commissioners and gave a brief overview of her background.

Noting a quorum, Miriam Amer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:19 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Roy Porterfield motioned the approval of the March 24, 2008 meeting minutes with Nancy Lee Ziese seconding. Dolores Reisinger noted that the first paragraph should state 'Monday, 24 March 2008' instead of 'Tuesday, 24 March 2008'. The minutes to the March 24, 2008 Commission meeting were approved with the above-noted change by unanimous vote.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

With no objections, the Parliamentary Procedure discussion will be resumed at the next regular meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

REVIEW OF CITY OF CEDAR RAPIDS CHAPTER 69 ORDINANCE

There was brief discussion regarding the suggested edits proposed by the staff where, noting time restrictions, the general consensus was to resume the discussion at the next Commission meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Michelle reviewed current housing activities by the staff also addressing general case questions from the Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

Roy motioned that the Commission hold a special meeting for further work on the Ordinance revisions on Saturday, 12 April 2008 at 9:30 AM. Tara Youells seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

CITY ANNUAL BUDGET

George Holmes questioned how the City's annual budget process was handled. There was brief conversation regarding the current process and the process in the past.

MISCELLANEOUS

Roy noted that on a recent visit to Wendy's Restaurant on First Avenue in Cedar Rapids he noticed they had an outdated anti-discrimination poster displayed. Roy contacted the regional office and addressed the issue of the restaurant maintaining the proper, updated areas of protection though Wendy's stated they were at the end of a court-required time period for posting the signs and they were to be removed soon. Upon another visit to Wendy's, Roy stated that indeed the posters had been removed.

Roy motioned to adjourn the meeting with Tara seconding the motion. The meeting adjourned by unanimous vote at 12:57 PM.

NEXT MEETING

THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD SATURDAY, 12 APRIL 2008 AT 9:30 AM.

The next regular meeting will be at 4:30 PM, Wednesday, 23 April 2008, in the Civil Rights Commission office conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Larsen
Administrative Assistant III