

CEDAR RAPIDS CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
Second Floor, Veterans Memorial Building
24 October 2007

Commissioners and staff met for the regular meeting of the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission at 4:30 PM, Wednesday, 24 October 2007, in the Conference Room, Ecumenical Community Center, 1035 Third Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Commissioners Present: Mr. Roy Porterfield, Chair
 Ms. Beth Freeman, Vice Chair
 Ms. Miriam Amer
 Mr. George Holmes
 Ms. Janet Johnson
 Ms. Tara Youells
 Ms. Nancy Ziese

Commissioners Absent: Mr. Momodu Kamara
 Mr. Virgil Gooding
 Mr. Kavi Parupally
 Ms. Dolores Reisinger

Staff Present: Mr. Kenneth White, Director
 Ms. Jan Alderton, Investigator
 Ms. Christina Larsen, Staff Administrative Assistant

Guest: Mr. Tom Podzimek, Councilperson
 Ms. Marlene Jessop, African American Museum

Noting no quorum, Roy Porterfield, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:37 PM though there would be no official Commission business discussed.

GUEST

Cedar Rapids Councilperson Tom Podzimek addressed the Commission explaining that he would be our Council liaison. Brief discussion ensued regarding formal communication procedures as well as the HAN housing district status and opportunities. Nancy Ziese raised the issue of the City considering a Universal Design ordinance with regard to new housing construction. Tom said that it might be done with a requirement of 20% being required in new housing.

Note: Beth Freeman and Janet Johnson arrived at the meeting enabling a Commission quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Miriam Amer motioned to approve the minutes to the September 26, 2007 Commission meeting as printed with Tara Youells seconding the motion. The minutes were approved as printed by unanimous voice vote.

PARLIMENTARY PROCEDURE

Janet reviewed the formal definition of Point of Order:

This procedure is used when a member believes the rules of the assembly are being violated. The member then calls on the Chair to clear the issue.

Further discussion ensued regarding clarification of when the point of order can and should be used.

OLD BUSINESS

COMMISSION MINUTES AND AGENDA ONLINE

Roy updated the Commission that the current meeting agenda is posted on the City's website along with the motions made at the most recent meeting. All formally approved minutes will also be posted online after each meeting for a period of no less than 12 months.

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Janet continued discussion with the group from September's meeting. General thought is that it would be difficult to get people together for two consecutive Saturdays. Janet reviewed the types of "communities" that they want to have addressed at the conference stating that there needs to be some narrowing of the groups. Miriam noted that there were not enough religious communities represented in Janet's list and encouraged more. Roy suggested that instead of identifying by nationality, identify by issues being faced (i.e. immigration). Janet suggested making it a yearly conference and address different communities each year making it a long-term project.

It was noted that the subcommittee meetings should be posted and emailed to regular group.

NEW BUSINESS

VINTON SCHOOL OF THE BLIND

Beth noted to the Commission that she attended the open house at the new Vinton School of the Blind today. She briefly informed the Commission on the details of the remodeling that have taken place.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kenneth White updated the Commission on his recent activities:

- ◆ Marlene Jessop and Kenneth are working on the Commission newsletter noting that it will be a quarterly publication with a director's corner, chair corner, and a highlighted commissioner corner.
- ◆ The staff office move should be taking place by November 16. The next Commission meeting will be in the new office space.
- ◆ Briefly discussed attending the NFPBA board meeting.
- ◆ Briefly discussed three articles distributed regarding his tenure in Minnesota.
- ◆ Briefly discussed his speech at NAACP banquet.

MISCELLANEOUS

Jan Alderton noted that she received an award at the NAACP banquet for all her assistance with the NAACP over the years. She also informed the Commission that she resigned effective

October 31, 2007. Roy presented Jan with a plaque for her excellence in 11 years of service to the Civil Rights Commission.

It is noted that both Dolores Reisinger and Kavi Parupally are excused absences.

Nancylee motioned to adjourn with Tara Youells seconding the motion. The meeting adjourned by unanimous voice vote at 5:35 PM.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be at Noon, Wednesday, 28 November 2007, in the Civil Rights Commission office conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Larsen
Administrative Assistant III