

**COUNCIL BLUFFS CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE JULY 27, 2009 MEETING**

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:34 p.m. by Chairperson Alba. Roll call was answered by Alba, Barzydlo, Carle, Christie, Jacoby, Mendoza, Rodasky, and Wallace. Absent was Reed, who was unexcused. Additionally present was Director Tamra Madsen.
2. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Christie and seconded by Mendoza. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.
3. The draft of the minutes of the May 18, 2009 meeting were reviewed and discussed. A motion was made by Barzydlo to approve the minutes, seconded by Christie. This motion was approved unanimously.
4. Several items were discussed under New Business:
  - A. New Commissioner Hersh Rodasky introduced himself. Each Commissioner and Director Madsen briefly introduced themselves as well.
  - B. The Election of Officers for the coming year was held. Alba was re-elected as Chair by a unanimous vote, after a motion by Christie, and a second by Mendoza. Barzydlo was similarly re-elected as Vice-Chair by a unanimous vote, after a motion by Jacoby, and a second by Carle.
  - C. Carle and Madsen updated the Commission on the recent League meeting which was conducted via the ICN system. All agreed that although our Commission is not the most active in the State, we also have many positive attributes, and are thankful for the role that we are able to play in our community in terms of education and awareness.
  - D. Madsen advised the Commission of the upcoming Fall League Meeting, which will be an in-person meeting, likely to be held in Des Moines in September or October, possibly in conjunction with the Mosaic Conference. Madsen again stressed the value of the in-person meeting format, and the opportunity to interact and network with Civil Rights Commissions from around the State. Our new VISTA, Sarah Porter, will

definitely be attending this meeting, and the Commissioners are also welcome to attend.

Alba excused himself at 4:55 p.m. for Honor Guard Duty. Vice-Chairperson Barzydlo assumed the duties as Chair from this point forward.

E. Discussion was held on the DVD received from the Cedar Falls Human Rights Commission, and whether a public screening of this DVD may be an appropriate educational tool. Madsen stated that she would review the DVD first and then pass it along to the Commissioners. This topic will be under “Old Business” at the next meeting; the DVD will possibly be used in tandem with another program in an educational format.

5. There were a number of items discussed under Old Business:

A. Madsen updated the Commission on the status of the Paint-a-Thon project. Many ideas were discussed on how best to accomplish the Paint-a-Thon’s goals. The home and family assigned to the “Bluffs Brushers” was also discussed, as well as challenges presented by the home. Madsen expressed concern over the lack of participation by city employees as volunteers, but praised the Council Bluffs Community Alliance for their willingness to assist the Commission with this project.

B. Our VISTA member, Sarah Porter, will be starting her service year with our Commission on August 24<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is excited to meet her and feels that this is a great step toward expanding our mission and goals throughout our community. Ms. Porter will be joining us at our September meeting and will meet the Commissioners then if not before. She will work on a variety of projects. The Commission was encouraged to provide other ideas of ways that the VISTA member’s service year may be best-utilized.

6. Community Education:

A. As discussed above under New Business, the Commission agreed that the DVD from the Cedar Falls Human Rights Commission may be an excellent starting point from which to develop the Commission’s next educational event. This DVD may possibly be shown in tandem with another event.

- B. The group brainstormed about other events, and several ideas were proposed: Wallace suggested partnering with social norming groups; Christie suggested that the Commission needs ideas for other educational events; and, Jacoby suggested that the ADAANA needs to be addressed, especially the new building requirements.

Wallace excused himself from the meeting at 5:27 p.m.

- C. Jacoby also suggested that there are many on-line references to the ADAANA. Rodasky mentioned that, as a member of the Council Bluffs Landlords Association, he is aware that discrimination is not addressed in that organization; all agreed that educating the Mayor and City Council with the Commission's appearance at a City Council Meeting, or the submission of the Commission's Mission Statement and Biographical Sketches of its members may help the Commission's exposure in city government.

Mendoza excused herself from the meeting at 5:41 p.m.

7. Per the Municipal Code of the City of Council Bluffs, § 1.40.070, Carle moved, seconded by Rodasky, at 5:41 p.m., to go into Executive Session to discuss pending cases. The motion was approved unanimously. Rodasky moved, seconded by Christie, to return to regular session at 6:00 p.m. This motion passed unanimously.
8. Other: Madsen informed the Commission that she has been asked by the Diocese in Des Moines to conduct Sexual Harassment Training for the educators, priests, brothers, nuns, and other employees of the Diocese in Southwest Iowa in September in two (2) separate sessions. The Commission agreed that this was an excellent outreach opportunity. Several Commissioners expressed an interest in attending a training session; Madsen will verify with the Diocese that this is acceptable, and will let the Commissioners know.
9. A motion to adjourn was made by Christie and seconded by Carle. It passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m. by Vice-Chairperson Barzydlo.

Minutes prepared by:

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Tamra L. W. Madsen