

**COUNCIL BLUFFS CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE MARCH 15, 2010 MEETING**

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:39 p.m. by Vice-Chairperson Christie. Roll call was answered by Christie, Go, Mendoza, Rhatigan, and Rodasky. Jacoby arrived after the start of the meeting. Absent and excused were Alba, Bettis, and Carle. Additionally present were Director Tamra Madsen and VISTA Member Sarah Marfisi.
2. After discussion and a recommendation by Madsen, a motion to approve the agenda was made by Rodasky and seconded by Rhatigan. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.
3. The draft of the minutes of the January 18, 2010 meeting was reviewed and discussed. A motion was made by Mendoza to approve the minutes, seconded by Go. This motion was approved unanimously.
4. Several items were discussed under New Business:
  - A. New Commissioner Gilda Bettis was not in attendance. She will be introduced at the Commission's next meeting.
  - B. New Commissioner Susannah Go was introduced to the Commission. She is excited to be here and is already working on the subcommittee for the Hearing on the Status of Civil Rights. She will attend the Legislative Breakfast and League Meeting in Des Moines on March 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - C. The Commission decided that it would like to pursue participation in the Paint-a-Thon again in 2010 and reiterated that it was a great community event in 2009. Mendoza expressed interest in working with the Commission team this year. Madsen discussed how helpful the Council Bluffs Community Alliance and Walmart were last year with their respective donations of labor and materials.
  - D. Marfisi gave Commissioners a list of possible Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") celebration ideas generated by the State Civil Rights Commission. She stated that the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ADA is in late July. The Commission will plan a celebratory event in June or July. Rodasky mentioned that his sidewalk chalk contest information would tie in as well. Mendoza suggested that one event might be to ask the Fair Housing Center to give a presentation at the library on accessibility issues.
  - E. The Commissioners present unanimously agreed to move the May Commission meeting to May 10, 2010.

Jacoby joined the meeting at 4:48 p.m.
  - F. The Commission will again participate in the Celebrate CB! Parade; this year it will be held on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. Jacoby's pick-up truck will be available to decorate as a float. The Commission will invite the Council Bluffs Community Alliance to collaborate with it, as that organization did last year. Rodasky will provide colored balloons for decoration, and Marfisi will contact Rhatigan about a donation of candy from Walmart.

5. Several items were discussed under Old Business:

- A. Go, Jacoby, Madsen, and Marfisi will attend the Legislative Breakfast and League Meeting in Des Moines on March 16<sup>th</sup> (tomorrow) and will report back at next meeting.
- B. ADA AAA Training Session: Jacoby will review materials about the evolution of the ADA and how the focus has changed with the most recent amendments (“ADA AAA”). She will send information to the Commission to review. She would be interested in having Eric Stockton from the Great Plains ADA Center present to the Commission at some point. She would also be interested in holding a forum with a trainer and city officials, inspectors, architects, etc. to educate everyone about building in accordance with the ADA AAA. The Commission will discuss future activities at its May meeting after a review of the information that Jacoby sends.

6. Community Education:

- A. Subcommittee Report: Hearing on the Status of Civil Rights in Council Bluffs. The Hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the library. Christie reported on the format of the event and explained the process of the hearing. Marfisi passed out a draft of a letter to send to stakeholder groups and a flyer advertising the event. Marfisi discussed that the Mayor’s office asked the Commission to host a Holocaust Remembrance event. Current plans are a video screening at the library on Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.
- B. Youth Art Contest: Rodasky reported on his work with Laura at the Bluffs Arts Council. The chalk walk event will be coordinated with the Commission’s 20<sup>th</sup> year ADA celebration. The contest will be on a Friday night in June or July, taking advantage of the crowd before the Friday night movie series in Bayliss Park. The chalk art contest theme will be the ADA. The Commission will supply the chalk, ribbons for prizes, certificates for all participants, and maybe candy. Rodasky will chair the event and will have more organizational time come summer.

7. Executive Session:

- A. At 5:17 p.m. Rhatigan moved, seconded by Rodasky, pursuant to the Municipal Code of the City of Council Bluffs, § 1.40.070, to go into Executive Session to discuss pending cases. The motion passed unanimously.
- B. At 5:35 p.m. Rodasky moved, seconded by Mendoza, to close executive session and return to regular session. Motion passed unanimously.

- 8. A motion to adjourn was made by Go and seconded by Mendoza. It passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:36 p.m. by Vice-Chairperson Christie.

Minutes prepared by:

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Tamra L. W. Madsen