

**COUNCIL BLUFFS CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MAY 10, 2010 MEETING**

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:33 p.m. by Chairperson Alba. Roll call was answered by Alba, Bettis, Carle, Christie, Go, Jacoby, Mendoza, and Rodasky. Rhatigan arrived after the roll call. Additionally present were Director Tamra Madsen and VISTA Member Sarah Marfisi.
2. New Commissioner Gilda Bettis introduced herself. She was a guest speaker for the Commission around two (2) years ago and has been interested in serving on the Commission for some time. While she originally did not live within the Council Bluffs city limits, she has since moved into Council Bluffs and became eligible for the Commission. Ms. Bettis works with Iowa Workforce Development in the New Iowan Center. She is married and has two (2) adult children. Following her introduction, all other persons present introduced themselves to Ms. Bettis and welcomed her to the Commission.
3. After a call for motion by Alba, a motion to approve the agenda was made by Rodasky and seconded by Christie. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.
4. The draft of the minutes of the March 15, 2010 meeting was reviewed and discussed. A motion was made by Christie to approve the minutes, seconded by Go. This motion was approved unanimously.
5. Several items were discussed under Old Business:
 - A. Jacoby, Go, and Marfisi discussed their experiences at the Legislative Breakfast and League meeting in March. Jacoby mentioned that state Representative Doug Struyk attended the breakfast and had a long conversation with the Council Bluffs Commission's representatives. Go said that the trainings about testing and Islam were particularly interesting. She added that the You Tube videos produced by the Sioux City VISTAs were good. Marfisi agreed with the others' summary and said it was a good event.

Rhatigan joined the meeting at 4:43 p.m.

- B. Madsen and Marfisi discussed the recent lectures in Council Bluffs sponsored by the African-American Museum of Iowa. Madsen also mentioned that she was going to a meeting about a community board formation and would bring more information to the next commission meeting about this possible partnership.
 - C. The Celebrate CB! Parade will be May 15th at 10:30 a.m. Jacoby, Carle, Mendoza, and Marfisi plan to attend. Jacoby will drive her truck as our float. Rodasky brought balloons to donate. Marfisi will secure the helium, and pick up the donations of candy and parade supplies from Walmart. Marfisi will contact Mike Yowell about participation from the Council Bluffs Community Alliance.
 - D. Alba distributed hard copies of the 2009 Disability Law Handbook that was emailed to the Commissioners before the meeting. Jacoby discussed concerns about the ADA compliance of buildings in Council Bluffs and expressed an interest in a training session for local people involved in approving and building new buildings. Madsen noted that many city officials and

architects are already trained on the ADA. After further discussion, Christie offered that the best course of action for the Commission may be community outreach events focused on the ADA. Rodasky mentioned the ADA-themed youth chalk walk, to be discussed later in the agenda, as another means of ADA outreach.

- E. Mendoza will serve as team leader for the Commission's Paint-A-Thon team this year. The team will combine volunteers from the Commission and the Department of Health and Human Services, as well as hopefully others in the community who assisted last year, such as the Council Bluffs Community Alliance and the employees of the City of Council Bluffs.
 - F. The April 20th, 2010 Hearing on the Status of Civil Rights in Council Bluffs was discussed. Marfisi outlined the event and said that a good variety of groups were represented. After the hearing, several people stayed and had excellent interactions with other groups. Christie suggested making the Hearing a permanent event on a yearly or every-other-year basis. Rhatigan said that she was particularly moved by the transportation difficulties faced by those in wheelchairs. She suggested partnering with a Shriner's group or looking for community volunteers to provide wheelchair transport to an event. Mendoza suggested pushing for STS transportation to extend its hours to coordinate with City summer events such as the movies in the park. All agreed that Hearing was definitely a success.
 - G. Madsen shared her disappointment that the impressive candidate to whom the Commission had made an offer to serve as the Summer VISTA had declined the position just this afternoon. He had expressed concerns about housing in this area, but had not responded to Marfisi's offer to assist him in securing affordable housing. Rodasky had also offered assistance in housing location through a rental property which he owns in Omaha. Despite this setback, recruitment efforts continue, and other candidates are still viable and possible Summer VISTA's.
 - H. Marfisi shared the good news that the Iowa West Foundation approved the Commission's grant request, and awarded the Commission \$8400 to fund a VISTA member and some programming costs for the Commission for the remainder of this year and for next year.
6. Several items were discussed under New Business:
- A. The Clean Sweep will be tomorrow evening, May 11th, 2010. The Commission has a team. We will sign in at Bayliss Park at 5:30 p.m. and then go to our work site. We tried to coordinate a team with the Centro Latino, but they already had a team. We may be able to work in the same neighborhood with them during the event.
 - B. As discussed earlier, Madsen will attend a meeting with the African-American Museum of Iowa's Director on Wednesday evening prior to the Museum's lecture at the Library, and learn more about her formation of a local committee to support the museum's outreach in Council Bluffs.
 - C. The Iowa Civil Rights Commission has informed the Commission that we will have a full-time VISTA member next year, who is slated to start in November, 2010.

7. Community Education:

- A. Rodasky gave a report on plans for the “Chalk Walk.” The focus will be on the ADA and the Chalk Walk will take place on the sidewalks around Bayliss Park. The date will be Friday, July 16th or a rain date, July 30th, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. before the Friday night movie in the park. There will be three (3) age groups. The winners will receive ribbons and everyone will get a certificate. Rodasky will continue working with the Bluffs Arts Council to coordinate this, and will lead the search for a judge. The Commission may need to buy chalk.
- B. Marfisi asked for subcommittee members to help direct the planning of an ADA celebration in July. Go and Rodasky volunteered. Madsen explained an idea she had to invite former Husker and NFL football player Kenny Walker to present. Mr. Walker is deaf and has a moving story. The Commissioners enthusiastically agreed that this would be a wonderful event. Madsen agreed to try to contact Mr. Walker about presenting at an event.

8. Executive Session:

- A. At 5:33 p.m. Christie moved, seconded by Rhatigan, pursuant to the Municipal Code of the City of Council Bluffs, § 1.40.070, to go into Executive Session to discuss pending cases, and specifically, a recommendation on Case No. 09-07-C007. The motion passed unanimously.
 - B. At 5:39 p.m. Jacoby excused herself from executive session and left the meeting due to conflicts of interest involving a case to be discussed.
 - C. At 5:46 p.m. Carle moved, seconded by Mendoza, to close executive session and return to regular session. Motion passed unanimously.
9. Carle moved, seconded by Mendoza, to accept the case recommendation on Case No. 09-07-C007. The Motion passed with eight (8) Commissioners voting aye. Jacoby was absent.
10. A motion to adjourn was made by Christie and seconded by Rodasky. It passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m. by Chairperson Alba.

Minutes prepared by:

Tamra L. W. Madsen