

**COUNCIL BLUFFS CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 21, 2009 MEETING**

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m. by Chairperson Alba. Roll call was answered by Alba, Barzydlo, Carle, Christie, Mendoza, Rhatigan, and Rodasky. Absent were Jacoby and Wallace, who were both excused. Additionally present were Director Tamra Madsen and VISTA Member Sarah Marfisi.
2. After discussion and a recommendation by Madsen, a motion to approve the revised agenda was made by Barzydlo and seconded by Rodasky. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.
3. The draft of the minutes of the July 27, 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 Linda Rhatigan introduced herself and was welcomed by the Commission and the Director.
 - B. Sarah Marfisi was introduced as the Commission's Americorps VISTA Member for the coming service year. Marfisi discussed her mission and projects on which she has already worked and hopes to work in the coming months. She was also warmly welcomed by the Commission, and had already met a number of the Commissioners through the Paint-a-Thon.
 - C. Madsen, Marfisi, and Barzydlo briefed the Commission on an Employment Discrimination Workshop which they attended on September 16th. The workshop focused on immigration issues and featured an excellent speaker from the EEOC in Milwaukee.
 - D. Marfisi, assisted by Barzydlo, Mendoza, and Madsen, will be staffing a booth at the Iowa Realtors Convention on September 22nd and 23rd at the Mid America Center. The booth's purpose will be to provide information about fair housing to the Convention's attendees. The staffers will distribute fair housing materials

provided by the State, brochures about our Commission which Marfisi has developed, and the Commission's magnets and pencils.

- E. Madsen announced that October 1st is the scheduled date for the next League Meeting, which will be an in-person meeting, held near Des Moines at Prairie Meadows Casino. Prior to the League Meeting, there will be a training session especially geared toward commissioners, led by a civil rights attorney from Omaha. Lunch will be provided. Madsen, Marfisi, and Barzydlo are definitely planning to attend, and others are also welcome if their schedules permit.
- F. The State Civil Rights Commission is sponsoring Mediation Training by Elizabeth Kennedy, an attorney in Des Moines, via the ICN system on October 6th at 1:00 p.m. Madsen and Marfisi will be participating in this training, and all Commissioners are also invited to attend.

Barzydlo moved, seconded by Rodasky, to re-amend the agenda to go into executive session immediately, while a full contingent of Commissioners remained at the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

- 5. Per the Municipal Code of the City of Council Bluffs, § 1.40.070, Barzydlo moved, seconded by Rhatigan, at 4:51 p.m., to go into Executive Session to discuss pending cases. The motion was approved unanimously. Mendoza excused herself because of a conflict of interest. Barzydlo moved, seconded by Christie, to return to regular session at 5:26 p.m. This motion passed unanimously. At 5:27 p.m., Mendoza re-joined the meeting.
- 6. Other:
 - A. Rodasky moved, seconded by Carle, to approve the recommendation regarding Case No. 08-11-J004. The vote was all ayes, with Mendoza abstaining.
 - B. Rodasky moved, seconded by Christie, to deny the recommendation regarding Case No. 09-01-T001. Ayes were Rodasky and Christie; nays were Alba, Barzydlo, Carle, and Rhatigan; Mendoza abstained. Motion failed. Barzydlo moved, seconded by Rhatigan, to approve the

recommendation regarding Case No. 09-01-T001. After further discussion, Barzydlo withdrew her motion, and Rhatigan withdrew her second. Barzydlo moved, seconded by Rhatigan, to table further consideration of Case No. 09-01-T001 until the next regular meeting in November so that the Commissioners could review the facts of the case more thoroughly. The vote was all ayes, with Mendoza abstaining.

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

- A. Madsen reiterated that the Fall League Meeting will be October 1st, which was also discussed under new business.
- B. Marfisi updated the Commission on the status of the Paint-a-Thon project. The project is essentially completed, and Marfisi thanked the Council Bluffs Community Alliance again for their willingness to assist the Commission with this project. Walmart was again thanked for their donations to the project's successful completion. All agreed that helping the family improve their home was a wonderful service project for the Commission, and that it tied into the focus on elder issues for 2009.
- C. Marfisi discussed the Cedar Falls Human Rights Commission DVD. She stated that it is a good introduction to what a civil rights commission is and what civil rights commissions do, but is probably not appropriate for an educational event that the Commission could sponsor.
- D. Madsen reported on the Sexual Harassment Training that she led for the Diocese in Des Moines for the educators, priests, brothers, nuns, and other employees of the Diocese in Southwest Iowa in September in two (2) separate sessions. Overall, it was a successful outreach opportunity, and Madsen would like to expand this type of training to other employers in the City.
- E. *Little Salsa in the Prairie*: It is believed that Wallace may currently possess the Commission's copy of this video. Marfisi will follow-up to try to retrieve the film for the Commission's library.

6. Community Education:

A. The group brainstormed about other events, especially for this fall, and several ideas were proposed, but none will likely be big solo events for the Commission this fall.

B. First Night Celebration – New Year’s Eve: Several ideas were suggested about the Commission’s involvement in First Night. Barzydlo’s idea was a treasure hunt, and Marfisi thought the children’s hand-prints for our bulletin board would be a good idea. The Commission will definitely be participating in the event in some way.

C. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – January: The group decided that a city-wide Mayoral Proclamation was an excellent idea, and Rodasky volunteered to contact the mayor and facilitate the proclamation and press coverage for the signing and presentation of the proclamation. A food drive was also discussed, since last year’s food drive was a great success. Purchasing some copies of Dr. King’s newly-reprinted books was also a topic.

7. A motion to adjourn was made by Barzydlo and seconded by Carle. It passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m. by Chairperson Alba.

Minutes prepared by:

Tamra L. W. Madsen