

**COUNCIL BLUFFS CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MARCH 16, 2009 MEETING**

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:36 p.m. by Chairperson Alba. Roll call was answered by Alba, Barzydlo, Carle, Christie, Jacoby, and Mendoza. Absent were Martinez, Reed, and Wallace; none were excused. Additionally present was Director Tamra Madsen, and a special guest, Mary Lusajo.
2. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Carle and seconded by Christie. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.
3. The draft of the minutes of the November 17, 2008 meeting were reviewed and discussed. A motion was made by Barzydlo to approve the minutes, seconded by Carle. This motion was approved unanimously.
4. Several items were discussed under New Business:
 - A. Madsen discussed the Legislative Breakfast and League of Human and Civil Rights Commissions Meeting which she will be attending tomorrow in Des Moines. The event promises to be an excellent opportunity to meet others from civil rights commissions throughout the State and to learn from them. It will also be important to have contact with State Legislators as the League continues to lobby for the passage of bills with legislative priority which will assist the Iowa Civil Rights Commission in fulfilling its statutory duties. Madsen will report on these events at the next commission meeting.
 - B. The Commission discussed the upcoming Celebrate CB! Parade Entry for the parade on May 16th, 2009. Mendoza discussed the parade last year and the distribution of pencils with the commission's information on them. After further discussion among the commission members, Jacoby moved, seconded by Barzydlo, to ask Christie to order magnets for distribution at the Celebrate CB! Parade this year; further, that the magnets will contain the slogan: "Celebrate Council Bluffs! Celebrate Diversity!", and that the magnets and pencils may be used for other events and activities; further, that the information technology

personnel may be helpful in downloading the city's logo to place upon the magnets and that about 5,000 magnets will be appropriate; and finally, that Madsen will coordinate the details of the logo usage, contact information for the magnets, and payment with Christie. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

C. Carle reported on the training for the Commissioners held on February 11th, 2009 with Tom Good, from the Iowa Civil Rights Commission ("ICRC"). The training's focus was employment discrimination. Carle emphasized how helpful the training was and what an entertaining and knowledgeable speaker Mr. Good was. Madsen distributed additional hand-outs to those who had been unable to attend the training.

D. Madsen reported on the current status of the possibility of the commission having a VISTA member provided service to the commission for the 2009-2010 year. Funding and recruitment of possible candidates remain two critical issues in the project. Ideas were proposed to contact Iowa Western Community College and the University of Nebraska-Omaha to see about posting the opportunity on some type of job site at those institutions. Madsen will be attending a FREE, all-expense paid training session for VISTA Supervisors in Dallas in early April. She will report back on this experience at the next meeting.

5. There was no Old Business.

6. Community Education: Christie, as chair of the education sub-committee, led the discussion about the upcoming community education forum the Commission is holding focusing on elder issues scheduled for March 31st, 2009 at the Senior Center. Christie reported the current panelists as follows: Denise Carle from Bethany Lutheran; Heather Mendoza from the Department of Human Services; Jill Fenner from The Fair Housing Center; and, Barb Morrison from Southwest 8. There has been no contact from Wallace regarding a panelist from Hy-Vee discussing elder-friendly employers. Wal-mart was suggested as an elder-friendly employer. Alba has a good contact at Wal-mart and will get the woman's name and telephone number for Madsen to make the connection and request to be a possible panelist on this issue. Reed is scheduled to be the facilitator of the

Forum; at this time, Alba is scheduled as a back-up, with Barzydlo as a secondary back-up.

Further discussion ensued regarding the specifics of the Forum, such as: attendance expectations, advertising efforts, refreshments, public relations, a story in the Non-Pareil to attract interest, etc. Christie discussed the talking points she has received to help facilitate the discussions. Madsen discussed her opening and closing remarks. Slips of paper and pens will be available as guests arrive so that they can jot down questions for the panel as they arrive. Jacoby will greet guests. Refreshments are scheduled to be served from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Madsen will plan to be there early to check on the room's set-up and other last-minute details.

7. Per the Municipal Code of the City of Council Bluffs, § 1.40.070, Barzydlo moved, seconded by Mendoza, at 5:24 p.m., to go into Executive Session to discuss pending cases. The motion was approved unanimously. Lusajo excused herself from the meeting at this time. Barzydlo moved, seconded by Christie, to return to regular session at 5:31 p.m. Lusajo re-joined the meeting at this time.
8. Under Other Business, the absence policy for commissioners was discussed, and Madsen reported on the current status of members' absences.
9. A motion to adjourn was made by Christie and seconded by Barzydlo. It passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m. by Chairperson Alba.

Minutes prepared by:

Tamra L. W. Madsen