



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Draft EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION

Thursday, March 9, 2017

5:00 PM

Alicia Ashman Library
Capitol Bank Community Room
733 North High Point Road

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by chair Corinda Rainey-Moore at 5:01pm.

Others present: Commissioner Sofia Ascorbe, Commissioner Caitlin Badsing, Equal Opportunities Division Manager (EOD) Byron Bishop, Disability Rights and Services Program Specialist Jason Glozier, founder of ConNEXTions Saran Ouk, Debra Leadholm, and EOD Administrative Clerk Josue Peralta.

Sean Saiz arrived to the meeting at 5:03pm.

Rebecca Kemble arrived to the meeting at 5:04pm.

Present: 8 - Rebecca Kemble; Melanie G. Ramey; Sean A. Saiz; Jose E. Rea; Adam W. Brabender; Moriah N. Grace; Charles E. McDowell and Corinda Rainey-Moore

Excused: 3 - Susan M. Schmitz; William (Bill) Fetty and Zach A. Madden

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Melanie Ramey moved to approve the minutes from the meeting on January 19, 2017 without correction. The motion was seconded by Adam Brabender and passed by voice vote.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

4. DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

There were no disclosures or recusals.

5. Welcome new Commissioners Sofia Ascorbe and Caitlin Badsing

Equal Opportunities Commission President introduced the Commission's two newest Commissioners, Caitlin Badsing and Sofia Ascorbe.

Sofia Ascorbe is a third-year law student at the University of Wisconsin Law School, where she serves as President of the Student Bar Association and as an executive board member of the Latino Law Student Association. She currently volunteers for the pro bono program "Street Law" where she educates local high school students on the law and their rights, and works part-time in the legal division of American Family Insurance. She is interning twice a week with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in

Milwaukee. Sofia grew up in Miami, Florida but is here to stay in Wisconsin, despite the freezing winters.

Caitlin Badsing is a lifelong Madisonian who graduated from East High. She got married last May, and along with her husband just purchased their first house (on the northside) in October. Caitlin has always been interested in public service and government, and tries to volunteer whenever she can. She like to read, write, and cook her spare time.

REPORTS

6. EOD Division Manager, Byron Bishop

Equal Opportunities Division (EOD) Manager Byron Bishop began his report by notifying that the technology project has been postponed. The RFP will need to go out next year, 2018. He noted that the lack of techonology slows down the work, hindering the division from being as effective as it can be. Mr. Bishop continued his report with an update on the hiring of a full time mediator for the department, as well as a continuation of the current intern program for the hearing examiner with Madison College. There was also an update on finally having a minority general contractor that can bid for projects with the City. The new website for the department is being worked on with a fully online complaint form, including smartphone compatibility. The Division Manger continued by suggesting the suspension or change of the rule requiring interested persons wanting to become a part of the Employment Subcommittee for the Equal Opportunities Commission from three meetings to one meeting. It would be in an effort to increase the number of voting members and aid the problem of meeting quorum. A discussion of the topic continued with interest in continuing discussion at the next meeting.

7. Common Council

Alder Rebecca Kemble began her report by talking about her dissenting vote on the Beer Garden project. She mentioned the none-use of the RESJI (Racial Equity and Social Justice Initiative) tool was a factor in her decision. She also informed the commissioners about a law suit against the City by a photographer on a potential infringement of expressing her religious belief. Alder Kemble also noted that offier Matt Kenny was not interviewed during the investigation. The commission decided to talk about the topic at their executive committe.

DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

8. Presentation on Disability Rights, Jason Glozier presenting

Disability Rights and Services Specialist Jason Glozier presented to the commission about his work at the City of Madison. His position was created in 1974 and revised in 1990 to include provision from the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). He acts as a compliance monitor for Title 1 and Title 2 of the ADA, which include the internal investigation of services and making sure they're inclusive and accessible. He also supports City departments in making sure their programs and services are inclusive and accessible. Mr. Glozier continued by talking about current projects such as the City's first barrier free park. The City also got rid of their 14C license and now pay disabled persons at

least minimum wage. There is also activity on snow removal practices, accessible taxis, and issues in housing. He urged the Commission to take a look at what they can do to further accessibility as it refers to Title 3 in the City of Madison.

9. Presentation on ConNEXTions, Saran Ouk presenting

Founder of the community organization ConNEXTions, Saran Ouk presented to the Commission as to how the program came to be. Their mission is to guide underrepresented young adults from the Madison community to achieve their goals through mentoring, networking and professional development. She spoke about how their current funding is through personal donations, as well as the fact that they're looking into grants. Through ConNEXTions, they want to expose younger kids to a wide variety of careers. They are currently recruiting for more mentors after which they will start recruiting mentees from the high schools. The commissioners discussed how the program could be a great fit with the Employment Subcommittee for the Equal Opportunities Commission.

10. [46252](#) Formalize make up of the Appeals Committee for 2017

The commission decided to have the same group continue their tenure until May. Commissioners Adam Brabender, Sofia Ascorbe, and Moriah Grace volunteered to be a part of the May through August time frame of the committee. The item will be referred to the executive committee for further discussion.

11. [44003](#) Establishing the Task Force on Equity in Music and Entertainment.

Attachments: [Resolution 24233 Cultural Plan.pdf](#)

Alder Kemble motioned to refer this item to the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Grace and passed via voice vote.

12. [45904](#) Releasing letter encouraging people to vote

Attachments: [To the people of Madison.pdf](#)

The Commissioners looked through the draft prepared by Commissioner Grace, where the word "Commission" in the second to last paragraph after "The Equal Opportunities" was added. Alder Kemble motioned for the letter to be accepted, which was seconded by Ascorbe. The motioned passed via voice vote.

13. [45878](#) Update on highway median safety ordinance

Alder Kemble motioned to refer this item to the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Saiz and passed via voice vote.

14. [45720](#) Discussion of Madison Police Department data needs and formulate questions

Commissioner Grace motioned to refer this item to the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Brabender and passed via voice vote.

15. [44995](#) Selection of two EOC members to serve as appointees to the Employment Subcommittee

Commissioner Brabender and Alder Rebecca Kemble both volunteered to attend the Employment Subcommittee's meeting on Thursday, March 16, 2017.

16. [46446](#) Letter from Commission honoring Ed Garvey

Commissioner Grace motioned to refer this item to the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Ascorbe and passed via voice vote.

17. **FUTURE TOPICS FROM THE FLOOR**

- Have Nicole Harp from the Yahara House come and present on Mental Health

18. **ANNOUCEMENTS**

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater will be having a Disability Diversity Day on Tuesday, March 14, 2017 from 11-4:30pm.

19. **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Saiz moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:55pm. The motion was seconded by Grace and passed by voice vote.