



City of Madison

Meeting Minutes - Final

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
www.cityofmadison.com

Thursday, October 12, 2006

5:00 PM

215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room LL-120 (Madison Municipal Building)

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m., Bert Zipperer presiding.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Nia Enemuoh-Trammell, Victoria S. Selkove, Desmond C. Steward, Bert Zipperer, Daniel L. Ross, Megin H. McDonell, Charles Holmes-Hope, Michael W. T. Howe and Brian L. Solomon

Absent: Teresa Tellez-Giron and Carousel Andrea S. Bayrd

Excused: Zachariah Brandon and Steven H. Morrison

Zipperer welcomed new Commissioners Charles Holmes-Hope and Desmond Steward. Commissioners introduced themselves.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Howe, seconded by Selkove, to Approve the Minutes. The motion passed by acclamation.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF COMMUNITY EVENTS

No announcements were made.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Zipperer circulated an article that appeared in the Capital Times on the Madison Network of Black Professionals that included a photo of Commissioner Nia Enemuoh-Trammell.

Zipperer gave special thanks to Commissioners Ross, Solomon and Morrison for their work on the press conference relative to the referendum on the State Constitutional Amendment prohibiting gay marriage and civil unions. He stated that there was a good show of support from local and State officials as well as good attendance by the public.

He extended condolences to Lucía Nuñez on the death of her brother.

Present: Nia Enemuoh-Trammell, Victoria S. Selkove, Desmond C. Steward, Bert Zipperer, Daniel L. Ross, Carousel Andrea S. Bayrd, Megin H. McDonell, Charles Holmes-Hope, Michael W. T. Howe and Brian L. Solomon

Absent: Teresa Tellez-Giron

Excused: Zachariah Brandon and Steven H. Morrison

Commissioner Bayrd arrived at 5:18 p.m.

Zipperer met with Mayoral Assistant Enis Ragland relative to concerns with Commission attendance and on other topics.

He attended the Employment Committee meeting and has spoken with the Mayor about sponsoring an ordinance amendment, as had previously existed, that allowed Madison companies to have representatives who lived outside of Madison be voting members of the Employment Committee.

7. DCR DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Wick presented the Director's report in the absence of Lucía Nuñez. She reported that she had made a presentation to the Board of Estimates regarding the budget request for the Department of Civil Rights.

She announced that the agency had received an increase in its EEOC contract for 2006 and exceeded even that. The agency will be paid for processing 77 cases.

Wick also circulated copies of a newspaper article indicating that a proposed anti-loitering ordinance will not be pursued by the Common Council.

In response to a question, Blackwell provided information on the Legislative Committee on Affirmative Action.

8. LIAISON REPORTS

a. Common Council Update--No report.

b. Affirmative Action Commission--The Commission did not have a quorum for its last meeting.

c. Commission on Persons with Disabilities--Howe reported that the CPD would have an Automark demonstration from the County and City Clerks and a goals and objectives session at its October meeting

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. EOC Executive Committee: Enemuoh-Trammell reported for the Committee. The Committee reviewed pending projects and finalized the agenda for the Commission meeting. The Committee discussed how the Commission can provide a public response on Commission decisions and looked at a Seattle brochure on service animals. The Committee also adopted a recommendation for action on the Bedford correspondence. This recommendation was included in the meeting packet.

b. EOC Employment Committee: This Committee needs a Commission member to act as liaison between the Commission and the Committee. Interested individuals should contact Annie Weatherby for information.

c. Ad Hoc Committee on Check Cashing: The Committee is gathering information and will continue to meet. Professor Miley at the UW has expressed interest in working with us through the Consumer Law Clinic.

d. Ad Hoc Committee on Constitutional Amendment: The press conference held on September 28 was a success with 60-70 people in attendance. The work of the

Committee is now complete and the Committee has been disbanded. Zipperer thanked Ariel Ford, the Mayor and Brian Solomon for their remarks at the press conference.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Continued Discussion and Action on Bedford Correspondence--The EOC Executive Committee will recommend action.

3 03185 Letter dated March 14, 2006 from Jonathon Bedford re: Public Housing.

A motion was made by Howe, seconded by Solomon, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL WITH THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS - REPORT OF OFFICER Mr. Bedford's individual issue with the CDA has been resolved. However, his correspondence has once again raised long-standing concerns as to how the CDA screens applicants with conviction records. The Equal Opportunities Commission will continue to examine this issue to assure that CDA screening practices comply with the City's Equal Opportunities Ordinance, to the extent allowed by federal regulation.

The motion passed by acclamation.

b. CDA Tenant Screening Policies Relative to Conviction Record

The Commission is still awaiting an opinion from the City Attorney. Staff was asked to renew the Commission's request.

11. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Case No. 20022063, Cronk v. Reynolds Transfer & Storage--Discussion and decision on procedural issues relative to appeal and cross-appeal (enclosure)

A motion was made by Howe to grant the request of the Respondent's Attorney relative to submission of briefs. The motion failed for lack of a second.

On a motion made by Enemuoh-Trammell and seconded by Bayrd the Commission voted to request that the parties submit briefs on the issues on appeal according to the briefing schedule in view of the fact that the issues are narrower and the Commission wants briefs that address the specific issues on appeal before the Commission at this time. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Commissioner Holmes-Hope abstained.

Present: Victoria S. Selkove, Bert Zipperer, Daniel L. Ross, Carousel Andrea S. Bayrd, Megin H. McDonell, Charles Holmes-Hope, Michael W. T. Howe and Brian L. Solomon

Absent: Teresa Tellez-Giron

Excused: Zachariah Brandon, Nia Enemuoh-Trammell, Desmond C. Steward and Steven H. Morrison

b. Oppose State Referendum on Death Penalty

A motion was made by Solomon and seconded by Enemuoh-Trammell to go on record to formally oppose the referendum calling for availability of the death penalty in Wisconsin due to the likelihood that it would be disproportionately applied to persons of color. Motion passed. Commissioner Holmes-Hope abstained.

Commissioner Solomon will prepare a press release on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner Selkove left at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Bert Zipperer, Daniel L. Ross, Carousel Andrea S. Bayrd, Megin H. McDonell,
Charles Holmes-Hope, Michael W. T. Howe and Brian L. Solomon

Absent: Teresa Tellez-Giron

Excused: Zachariah Brandon, Nia Enemuoh-Trammell, Victoria S. Selkove, Desmond C.
Steward and Steven H. Morrison

12. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION

EOC Investigators Eric Kestin and David Lopez provided a presentation on the intake process used by the Equal Opportunities Division.

Further training on the EOD investigation process will be provided at later meetings.

13. ADJOURNMENT

It was duly moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed by acclamation.

Minutes prepared by Cindy Wick, Executive Assistant