



**City of Madison**  
**Meeting Minutes - Final**  
**COMMON COUNCIL**  
**ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE**

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

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Tuesday, November 8, 2005

4:30 PM

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
Room 103A (City-County Building)

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**You must register before your item is considered by CCOC.**  
**Please hand your registration form to the presiding chair of the meeting.**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

**Meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Ald. Paul J. Van Rooy, Ald. Santiago Rosas, Ald. Zachariah Brandon, Ald. Austin W. King, Ald. Paul E. Skidmore and Ald. Isadore Knox, Jr.

**Absent:** Ald. Brenda K. Konkel

**Excused:** Ald. Larry Palm

**Others in attendance:** Bert Zipperer, City Attorney Michael May, Enis Ragland, Richard Marie Commander.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approve October 11, 2005 meeting minutes.

**A motion was made by Ald. Rosas, seconded by Ald. King, to Approve the Minutes. The motion passed by acclamation.**

### **NEW BUSINESS ITEMS**

2. Amending Section 3.58(3)(a) of the Madison General Ordinances to modify the composition of the Affirmative Action Commission.

**A motion was made by Ald. Brandon, seconded by Ald. Rosas, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by acclamation.**

3. Amending Section 3.23(10) of the Madison General Ordinances to modify the composition of the Equal Opportunities Commission.

**A motion was made by Ald. Brandon, seconded by Ald. Knox, Jr., to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by acclamation.**

*Registrants:*

*Bert Zipperer, Equal Opportunities Commission, Speaking in Opposition*

*Mr. Zipperer said the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) opposes the ordinance not in spirit, but in detail, and made the following points:*

*- The spirit of having members of the Affirmative Action Commission (AAC), the*

*Commission on People with Disabilities (CPD), and the EOC know each other better and keep each other informed is fine.*

- The EOC has discussed a number of ways to make that happen, including retreats, twice-yearly gatherings, and staff education.*
- To be effective on the EOC takes a couple of years. Members have to get up to speed on numerous topics, such as the many protected classes and various legal issues and precedents. Additionally, the EOC is quasi-judicial, hearing cases on appeal. All this requires a real commitment from members, and he suggested the same is true for the AAC and the CPD.*
- For the vast majority of months over the last two years, not all of the seats on the EOC have been filled. The EOC is concerned that if enough people can't be found among the 200,000+ citizens of Madison, they won't be found among the 10-12 on the AAC and the CPD, either.*
- If a member serves on the EOC and the Executive Committee, that means two meetings a month. Additionally, the EOC often has ad hoc committees to look at issues, so a commissioner could easily have three meetings a month. If that person is also actively involved in the AAC or the CPD, that represents a significant time commitment. He wondered if the CCOC really wants uncompensated citizen members to be so overburdened, possibly leading to ineffective membership or less than full participation in the commissions.*
- Having knowledgeable people is a good thing, but he isn't sure that cross representation as a mandated position is good. He stated he believes it's better to have people who are committed and may or may not be experts in other areas.*
- While he believes it's good for the EOC to be informed, he suggested there are a lot of ways to accomplish this. For example, a representative from the AAC or the CPD could visit the EOC monthly in an ex officio capacity and fill in the commissioners.*

*Ald. Austin King said he senses cross representation is a good thing, and it should have happened a long time ago; his concerns were about the specifics of implementation.*

*The chair recognized Enis Ragland, Assistant to Mayor Cieslewicz, as wishing to speak. Mr. Ragland stated the following:*

- He understands Mr. Zipperer's concerns about quorum. He added that it's also a challenge to find a balance of demographics, race, etc. when trying to fill committee appointments.*
- With appointments being submitted at one Common Council meeting and approved at the next, the process takes some time.*
- Mayoral staff meets approximately every two weeks to go through the applications, trying to find citizens who fit and trying to keep the diversity everyone wants and needs.*
- He understands Mr. Zipperer's concerns about quorum, adding that it's also a challenge to balance the appointments to the different committees.*

*Ald. Van Rooy asked if there is a shortage of people interested in serving on these commissions. Mr. Ragland replied that there's not necessarily a shortage, but all the applicants may be from the same zip code, have the same type of background, etc.*

*Ald. Van Rooy asked if there were further questions for either Mr. Zipperer or Mr. Ragland. There were none.*

*Ald. King said he understands the concerns about cross representation leading to overly burdensome meeting schedules, but pointed out that a number of City committees already have cross represented positions, especially those relating to planning and traffic. He cited the Plan Commission's guaranteed seat on the Pedestrian/Bicycle/Motor Vehicle Commission. As a member of some of those committees, Ald. King stated he'd always found those positions to be very helpful, especially when the person*

*...serving understood their role as a dual member as being a conduit of information and experience sharing. He mentioned that the Community Development Block Grant Commission has a dedicated portion of its agenda just to talk about cross representation, and the entire commission ends up better informed.*

*Ald. Konkel said Ald. King might be right, but she thinks it can go too far. For example, at one point, five Transit and Parking Commission members were also on the Long Range Transportation Planning Commission (LRTPC), so there was a quorum of TPC members at the LRTPC. Ald. Konkel said she believes it might be okay in this particular case, but she'd hate to see too many more cross appointments because it gets to the point where nobody will volunteer to be on certain committees; they get on one committee and, all of a sudden, they're appointed to twelve other things. She reiterated that this may not be a problem in this case, but added that she doesn't think it's a good model for other committees to follow.*

**Ald. Brenda Konkel arrived at 4:37 p.m.**

**Present:** Ald. Paul J. Van Rooy, Ald. Santiago Rosas, Ald. Zachariah Brandon, Ald. Austin W. King, Ald. Paul E. Skidmore, Ald. Isadore Knox, Jr. and Ald. Brenda K. Konkel

**Excused:** Ald. Larry Palm

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Ald. King, seconded by Ald. Rosas, Meeting adjourned at 4:44 p.m. The motion passed by acclamation.**