



City of Madison

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

Meeting Minutes - Approved EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION

Thursday, April 11, 2013

5:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at 5:05 p.m. with Brian Benford, President, presiding.

Guest: Anita Weier

Staff: Lucía Nuñez and Annie Weatherby-Flowers

Present: 10 -

Hedi L. Rudd; Brian Benford; John L. Quinlan; Katherine Cramer Walsh;
Shawn F. Peters; Brandon M. Johnson; William (Bill) Fetty; Charles E.
McDowell; Narendra Sinha and Benjamin M. Nerad

Absent: 2 -

Brian L. Solomon and Sean A. Saiz

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Nerad, seconded by McDowell, to Approve the March 14, 2013, Minutes with one correction to add "Executive Committee at large vacancy, hold election to fill." The motion passed by voice vote/other.

<http://madison.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. [29758](#) Unemployment Protection

Attachments: [Unemployment Additions to MEOO.pdf](#)

Nuñez led the discussion on adding unemployment as a protected class and referred to the information provided by staff on New York city's process.

- Brian Solomon working with the City Attorney's office regarding adding it to the Employment Section of the Equal Opportunities Ordinance.
- Members were to have met with the Employment Subcommittee

- This is not a permanent status, usually temporary.
- The ramifications of this protection on other protected classes.
- Prohibit advertising "unemployed need not apply."
- Nunez distributed a draft of the Ordinance changes and encouraged members to review.
- Discussion ensued around language and any consideration of the protection in housing and public accommodations. The Commission requested that topic be added to the Employment Subcommittee's next meeting agenda.
- Homelessness protection, staff led brief discussion on the factors involved in change/add to Ordinance and will place on next month's agenda.

2. Public Accommodations Laws

Commissioner Quinlan reported on the issue relating to the magazine "Our Lives", a LGBT publication that was removed from the bins at HyVee by a store manager because of alleged complaints from customers. The issue went viral on Facebook and ultimately was resolved when HyVee's Iowa-based Corporate Office became involved. Discussion followed Quinlan's report and staff shared EOD staff's involvement with HyVee, who has been very responsive to trainings as well as becoming a significant employer in Madison. Staff also interjected that the Ordinance only provides protection for a person (individuals) and not an entity such as a magazine.

ROLL CALL

Brian Solomon arrived at 5:35 p.m.

Present: 12 -

Brian L. Solomon; Hedi L. Rudd; Brian Benford; John L. Quinlan; Sean A. Saiz; Katherine Cramer Walsh; Shawn F. Peters; Brandon M. Johnson; William (Bill) Fetty; Charles E. McDowell; Narendra Sinha and Benjamin M. Nerad

REPORTS

3. Director's Report

Lucía Nuñez reporting:

- Investigating and processing cases (23 cases)
- Planning 50th Anniversary Celebrations with the Mayor's Office: 16th St Church Bombing, EOD staff expanded events to include other historical anniversaries such as, the March on Washington, the Kennedy Assassination and the passing of the Equal Opportunities Ordinance. Staff will present recommendations to the Mayor and will keep the Commission updated.
- Community Budget meeting being planned
- Staffing, hiring hourly administrative person and Affirmative Action Specialist.

4. President's Report

No updates.

5. Common Council Update

Alder Brian Solomon reporting:

- Elections/Swearing in of New Alders on April 16th
- Alder Solomon's last meeting and introduced Alder Weier, who briefly shared as the new Alder to the Commission.
- Redevelopment on East Washington will tear down affordable housing and replace it with high rental housing.
- This Mayor's interest as it related to Inclusionary Zones and the benefits that it made on affordable housing
- Outlined the issues before the Commission during his 9 year-tenure:
Checking Cashing Venues, Marriage Amendment, Diversity in Entertainment Venues, Chronic Nuisance, Taxi Cabs, Racial Profiling, and Landlord/Tenants issues.

6. Committee Reports

a. EOC Executive – Brian Benford reporting

- No quorum

b. EOC Employment Subcommittee – Bill Fetty and staff.

- Microaggressions presentation, Retreat in June, Outreach to HyVee and job seekers.

7. Appeals Committee Report

No appeals at current, two will assigned for review in conjunction with the City Attorney.

8. Introduction of Future Items from the Floor

- Presentation by Jason Glozier, Disabilities Rights and Services Program
- Homelessness
- Diversity in Entertainment Venues
- Elections

9. Announcements

- White Privilege Conference – attendance potential for 2014
- Summit on Homelessness – April 26
- Op Ed on Homelessness distributed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Fetty, seconded by Solomon, to Adjourn at 7:00 p.m. The motion passed by voice vote/other.