



City of Madison

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION

Thursday, August 13, 2015

5:00 PM

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

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 P.M. by President Bill Fetty.

Attendance followed:

Present: Bill Fetty, Sean Saiz, Charles McDowell (arrived at 5:06 P.M.), Zach Madden, Kira Stewart, Susan Schmitz, Corinda Rainey-Moore, and Alder Rebecca Kemble

Excused: Percy Brown, Jr., John Quinlan, Moriah Grace, and Kathy Cramer

Absent: Adam Brabender

Staff Present: Mayor Paul Soglin, Alyssa Riphon (Investigator/Conciliator, Department of Civil Rights), Charlyn Cruz-Nuñez (Investigator/Conciliator, Department of Civil Rights), Annie Weatherby-Flowers (Investigator/Conciliator, Department of Civil Rights), Kate McCarthy (Administrative Clerk, Department of Civil Rights), Kate Smith (Assistant City Attorney), and Adriana Peguero (Assistant City Attorney)

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Susan Schmitz moved to approve the minutes of July 9, 2015. The motion was seconded by Corinda Rainey-Moore, and passed by voice vote/other.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Elizabeth Tucci spoke in opposition of the "Downtown Pedestrian Protection Ordinance, legislative item number 39502. Ms. Tucci expressed her concerns regarding the ordinance and its impact on people without homes. Ms. Tucci claimed the policy would not support neighbors without shelter and would, in turn, unnecessarily criminalize homelessness.

Tami Miller also spoke in opposition of the "Downtown Pedestrian Protection Ordinance, legislative item number 39502. Ms. Miller also expressed her concerns regarding the ordinance and its impact on people without homes. Ms. Miller claimed the policy would target homeless individuals, and brought the lack of shelter for women, children, and veterans to the attention of the Commissioners.

4. DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

Susan Schmitz disclosed she had mentioned the "Downtown Pedestrian Protection Ordinance, legislative item number 39502, in an article. She also mentioned the company she is employed, Downtown Madison, Inc., has not taken a stance on the ordinance, but regardless, explained her role on the Commission as a citizen member.

Bill Fetty disclosed he has worked with Tami Miller (public commentator) on projects in the past.

REFERRALS FROM COMMON COUNCIL

Susan Schmitz moved to reorganize the agenda to replace item number 6, "Downtown Pedestrian Protection Ordinance, legislative item number 39502, item number five, "Creating Section 23.07(11), renumbering Sections 23.07(11) and (12) to (12) and (13), amending Section 23.07(13) and amending Section 1.08(3)(a) of the Madison General Ordinances to prohibit the entering of a vehicle without the owner's consent and to create a bail deposit for violation thereof", legislative file number 38109. The motion was seconded by Sean Saiz and passed by voice vote/other.

5. [38109](#)

Creating Section 23.07(11), renumbering Sections 23.07(11) and (12) to (12) and (13), amending Section 23.07(13) and amending Section 1.08(3)(a) of the Madison General Ordinances to prohibit the entering of a vehicle without the owner's consent and to create a bail deposit for violation thereof.

Sponsors: Ledell Zellers and Barbara Harrington-McKinney

Attachments: [Version 1](#)

Alder Rebecca Kemble and Kate Smith, Assistant City Attorney, introduced the item to the Commission and explained its historical context. The Commission asked questions surrounding fines and the purpose/need of the ordinance proposal. Corinda Rainey-Moore moved to postpone a vote on this item and refer it to the September 10, 2015 Equal Opportunities Commission meeting. Alder Rebecca Kemble seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote/other. The Commission requested a representative from the Madison Police Department come to the next Equal Opportunities Commission meeting for informational purposes regarding this item, and crafted a list of questions to ask the representative.

6. [39502](#) Creating Section 23.60, renumbering current Section 23.60 to Section 23.70, and amending Section 1.08(3)(a) of the Madison General Ordinances to impose a time limit on use of public benches, to prohibit sitting or lying or lodging in the public sidewalks and rights of way and specified other public places, during specified hours in the Central Business District, and establish a bail deposit schedule for violations thereof, to be known as the Downtown Pedestrian Protection Ordinance.

Sponsors: Paul R. Soglin

Attachments: [Body](#)
[Central Business District Map](#)

The Mayor introduced this item to the Commission. He explained Madison as a compassionate city, and therefore more homeless individuals are migrating to Madison. The Mayor described two different approaches to homelessness; the "West Coast Approach" (compassionate, no rules) versus the "Boston Approach" (compassionate, firm in rules regarding behavior). He cited recent behavioral instances of homeless individuals taking advantage of the compassionate nature of Madison, and explained the way this proposed policy would aid in curtailing behavioral issues.

After the Mayor's introduction, the Commissioners held a question and answer session with the Mayor, Mayoral Staff, and representatives from the City of Madison Attorney's Office.

A motion was made by Zach Madden, seconded by Sean Saiz, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation to Place on File to the Public Safety Review Committee. The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: Alder Rebecca Kemble, Kira Stewart, Sean Saiz, Bill Fetty, Charles McDowell, Zach Madden, and Corinda Rainey-Moore

No: None

Abstain: Susan Schmitz

After the vote, the Commission agreed to recess for five minutes and reconvene thereafter.

DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

Sean Saiz moved to refer item numbers 7, 9, 10, and 11 to the September 10, 2015 Equal Opportunities Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Alder Rebecca Kemble, and passed by voice vote/other.

7. [38857](#) Officer Elections for the Equal Opportunities Commission

This item was forwarded to the September 10, 2015 Equal Opportunities Commission meeting.

8. Discussion: EOC Employment Subcommittee

The Commission briefly discussed this item. Kira Stewart brought forth the issue of employment for people with disabilities as a possible project item for the EOC Employment Subcommittee to complete within the next year. Danielle Dieringer (Chair, EOC Employment Subcommittee) expressed weakness in membership and diversity to which the Subcommittee would like to focus to address, as well. The Commission wanted to further explore the role of the EOC Employment Subcommittee deeper during the retreat.

REPORTS

9. Director's Report

This item was forwarded to the September 10, 2015 Equal Opportunities Commission meeting.

10. President's Report

This item was forwarded to the September 10, 2015 Equal Opportunities Commission meeting.

11. Committee Reports

This item was forwarded to the September 10, 2015 Equal Opportunities Commission meeting.

12. **FUTURE TOPICS FROM THE FLOOR**

There were no future topics from the floor.

13. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Charlyn Cruz-Nuñez announced details surrounding the upcoming YWCA Racial Justice Summit
- Alyssa Riphon announced room LL-120 would no longer be available for Equal Opportunities Commission meetings beginning in October

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

Sean Saiz moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 P.M. The motion was seconded by Zach Madden and passed by voice vote/other.