



City of Madison

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

Thursday, August 8, 2019

5:00 PM

215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 206 (Madison Municipal Building)

The City Channel Recording of this meeting can be found at the link below,
under Additional Meetings.
<https://www.cityofmadison.com/information-technology/city-channel/meetings>

**Consider: Who benefits? Who is burdened? Who does not have a voice at the table?
How can policy makers mitigate unintended consequences?**

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 PM by Dieringer.

Present: Corinda Rainey-Moore, Danielle Dieringer, Rebecca Kemble, Sheray Wallace, Caitlin Badsing, Richelle Andrae, Autumn Neugent, Luke Schieve, Bethany Matson, Charles McDowell, Zach Madden

Excused: Donna Moreland, Melanie Ramey

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Kemble, seconded by Schieve, to Approve the Minutes.
The motion passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

Previous Disclosures:
Badsing discloses that through her work she has connections to Meridian Group and Kennedy Heights in regards to the food bank.
Dieringer discloses that her employer, YWCA, does place residents at properties that are managed by Meridian Group.

NEW BUSINESS

1. [56968](#) Welcome to Autumn Neugent, our newest Commission Member.

The Commission welcomes Autumn Neugent to the team.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. [56220](#) Housing Concerns at Kennedy Heights, managed by Meridian Group

Jason Hagenow responded to all the questions asked of the EOC. He was very open and honest about his responses and open to the ideas the Commission had in helping him and his employees be more culturally competent. This would include trainings in such topics and trauma-informed care.

3. [56964](#) EOC Exec Committee reports out on what Jennifer Zilavy (City Attorney's Office) discussed at the Exec Committee meeting on 7/29/19.

It was discussed that Meridian Group is responsible for property management and may not necessarily be the owner of all the properties they are associated with. The EOC expressed concerns about Title VI violations and harassment linked to protected classes, as these are actions demonstrated by the property manager at Kennedy Heights. Zilavy informs the commissioners that there is no contractual relationship between Meridian Group with the city, but the City Attorney's Office can have a conversation with the owners of the property and remind them of their legal obligations. She also mentions that there has been great success at other properties when the property manager and other property staff are diversified to be more representative of the residents at the complex.

Since the EOC Executive Committee, Zilavy had met with Hagenow and he was receptive to information and suggestions on how to better Meridian's interactions with tenants.

4. [56973](#) Discuss how the "32.18 LANDLORD AND TENANT BEST PRACTICES CERTIFICATION PROGRAM" can be utilized or leveraged to provide support to tenants

Attachments: [32.18 LANDLORD AND TENANT BEST PRACTICES CERTIFICATION PRC](#)

The EOC would like to see this certification to be reviewed by the Intra-agency Housing Committee because they find that there are items labeled as "Best Practices" but are actually the law. They would like to see if this can be clarified within the certification or ordinance. Byron Bishop will bring this item to the Intra-agency Housing Committee and let the EOC know where they see fit to proceed.

5. [56963](#) EOD Manager Report

Attachments: [8.8.19 EOC Briefing.pdf](#)

Byron Bishop reviewed the EOD Manager Report. See attachment

FUTURE TOPICS

The EOC would like to follow up with Jason Hagenow and residents of Kennedy Heights in about 3 months to see what changes have been implemented. They would like to discuss how they can affect change in other

neighborhoods that are struggling.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Kemble, seconded by Dieringer, to Adjourn at 7:03. The motion passed by voice vote/other.