



City of Madison

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

Meeting Minutes - Approved EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION

Thursday, March 15, 2012

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 5:00 p.m. by Coco Bustamante, Chair.

Present: 8 -

Brian L. Solomon; Hedi L. Rudd; Coco Bustamante; Brian Benford; John L. Quinlan; Sean A. Saiz; Shawn F. Peters and Benjamin M. Nerad

Absent: 1 -

Charles E. McDowell

Excused: 2 -

Katherine Cramer Walsh and Brandon M. Johnson

Staff: Rachel Campbell and Ariel Ford

Several members of the public were also present but did not wish to speak.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion from Nerad, seconded by Quinlan, the February 9, 2012 minutes were approved without correction. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. [23313](#) Black-owned nightspots in Madison

Attachments: [1997 eoc report alcohol licensing.pdf](#)
[wsj article black owned nightspots.pdf](#)

Bustamante reviewed the Commission's activities on this item and handed the floor to Benford. Benford noted that while the Commission agreed to create a Subcommittee to review bar admittance policies before those issues were rather quickly resolved, he believed the issue merited further study and didn't want to see it fade away. Quinlan added that it was also important to examine what worked in resolving the bar I.D. issue in light of resolving similar conflicts in the future. The Commission discussed the issue and agreed that Madison seems to historically have pervasive, ongoing problems fostering entertainment options for people of color.

Ald. Solomon reported that City staff members have met on an informal basis with members of local hip-hop communities recently and that Ald. Solomon will try to attend future meetings. His hope was that if the Commission moved forward on forming a Subcommittee it could become involved in these meetings.

On a motion from Benford, seconded by Ald. Solomon, the Commission agreed to convene a Subcommittee dedicated to examining issues related to entertainment options for people of color in Madison and to ultimately host a community forum on the topic. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

Benford, Peters, Rudd, and Quinlan volunteered to serve on the Subcommittee, while Ald. Solomon volunteered to serve in a non-voting, advisory capacity.

McDowell arrived at 5:15 p.m.

Present: 9 -

Brian L. Solomon; Hedi L. Rudd; Coco Bustamante; Brian Benford; John L. Quinlan; Sean A. Saiz; Shawn F. Peters; Charles E. McDowell and Benjamin M. Nerad

Excused: 2 -

Katherine Cramer Walsh and Brandon M. Johnson

6. [24960](#) Statement in Opposition to the Passage of SB 207

Attachments: [SB207 letter from employment committee.pdf](#)
[SB207 eoc statement.pdf](#)

Campbell and Ford reviewed the Commission's actions on this item so far. The Commission requested that the item be referred to the Executive Committee.

REPORTS

7. [24676](#) Legislative Update--For information only. No action required.

Staff will provide recent updates, activity, and possible Madison impact of legislative items relevant to the mission of the EOC. For information only. Any item raised for future discussion will be posted on the next agenda.

As Mayoral Government Relations Officer Nicholas Zavos was not in attendance due to commitments at the Capitol, the Commission requested that the item be tabled.

8. [15179](#) PRESIDENT'S REPORT--For information only. No action required.

The EOC President will summarize meetings attended and other related activities on behalf of the Commission since the last Commission meeting. For information only. Any item raised for future discussion will be posted on the next agenda.

As Bustamante was absent from the previous Commission meeting and the Executive Committee did not meet due to lack of quorum, the President did not give a report.

9. [13093](#) DIRECTOR'S REPORT--For information only. No action required.

Lucía Nuñez, DCR Director, will report on the following:

- a. Her activities and meetings since the last meeting.*
- b. Update on agency activities.*

As Nuñez was not in attendance, Ford gave a combined Director's Report and Division Manager's Report.

10. [08357](#) DIVISION MANAGER'S REPORT--For information only. No action required.

Ariel Ford, Equal Opportunities Division Manager, will report on the following:

- a. Activities of the Division since the last meeting.*
- b. Update on staff activities.*
- c. Update on the EEOC Contract.*

Ford welcomed Rudd to the Commission and announced that Tom Grogan and Donna Hurd have both resigned, leaving the Commission with two vacancies. In addition, Commissions, Committees, and Boards throughout the City are experiencing shortages, so anyone interested in serving should contact the Mayor's Office. Ford also reported that DCR staff participated in the tavern training session held on February 20. About 150 people attended, and presentations were also given by staff from the City Attorney's Office, the Fire Department, and the Police Department. EOD Investigator/Conciliator Melissa Gombar gave the DCR's presentation, which emphasized consistency in rule enforcement. Ford also reported that she will be retiring on June 15, and that staff are in the process of getting the job announcement out so they can begin recruiting a new EOD Manager. EOD staff are also still trying to work with the various technical and procedural issues preventing their EEOC contract payment from 2011 from being deposited in their account. In addition, the EEOC contract for 2012 has not yet been finalized on the federal level, though EOD has submitted 34 cases toward what will potentially be a 60 or 72-case contract. Finally, Ford reported that she will be taping a segment on March 16

for the City Channel's Senior Beat on age discrimination.

11. [08358](#) COMMITTEE REPORTS--For information only. No action required.

Reports summarizing discussions at meetings held since the last meeting. For information only. Any item raised for discussion appears under Unfinished Business or will be posted as "Introduction of Future Items From the Floor" on the next agenda.

- a. EOC Executive Committee
- b. EOC Employment Committee

- a. The Executive Committee did not meet due to lack of quorum. No report.
- b. The Employment Committee did not meet due to lack of quorum. No report.

12. [13853](#) APPEALS COMMITTEE REPORT

For information only. No action required.

Quinlan reported that the Appeals Committee met on February 15 and affirmed the Hearing Examiner's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order in full, including monetary reqards, in MEOD Case No. 20093094, Goodwin v. Madison Taxi, and Case No. 20093110, Johnson v. Madison Taxi. The cases involved discrimination in public accommodations based on race (black) and color.

13. [12507](#) COMMON COUNCIL UPDATE--For information only. No action required.

Ald. Brian Solomon will provide an update on Common Council actions since the last Commission meeting.

Ald. Solomon reported that the Council will be taking up the plans for Grandview Commons at their next meeting, scheduled for March 20. Ald. Solomon also reported that he will be meeting with Mayor Soglin next week on the topic of homelessness, and would like to invite the Mayor to attend a roundtable meeting with homeless individuals similar to a previous meeting Ald. Solomon had attended. While the homeless shelter at the old Don Miller dealership on East Washington has closed, the Board of Estimates approved the next steps for the redevelopment of that property at their latest meeting. Ald. Solomon reported that at this time all rental units will be market-rate. The BOE also passed the CDBG funding goals and objectives.

14. [15741](#) INTRODUCTION OF FUTURE ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

The Commission requested that staff invite Mr. Zavos to attend the next EOC meeting for a discussion on state legislation's impact on local government, and that the item on SB 207 be referred to the Executive Committee.

At this time Bustamante asked that the Commission's newest members, Peters and Rudd, introduce themselves. They did so.

Ford announced that the J.C. Wright Award nomination forms are now posted online, and that an election will be held on April 3 but due to recent rulings voters do not need to present photo I.D.s.

15. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion from Ald. Solomon, seconded by Benford, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.