



City of Madison

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

Thursday, February 12, 2015

5:00 PM

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

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Equal Opportunities Commission was called to order at 5:05 P.M. by Bill Fetty, President. Attendance followed:

Present: Bill Fetty, Moriah Grace, Kira Stewart, Sean Saiz, John Quinlan, Charles McDowell, Alder Anita Weier, Susan Schmitz, Corinda Rainey-Moore, and Percy Brown, Jr. (arrived at 5:09 P.M.)

Excused: Kathy Cramer

Absent: None

Staff: Lucia Nuñez (Director, Dept. of Civil Rights) and Alyssa Riphon (EOD Administrative Clerk, Dept. of Civil Rights)

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alder Anita Weier moved to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2015 without correction. Moriah Grace seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote/other.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

4. DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

There were no disclosures or recusals.

DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

5. Young, Gifted & Black Coalition Presentation

In representation of the coalition, Brandi Grayson provided the commission with information surrounding the group. She explained the purpose of the coalition and four specific areas of issues in which the group aims to address regarding racial disparity and discrimination. She brought forth a wide range of issues including, but not limited to, body cameras, disparity, arrest/conviction rates, culture, education, and psychology. Brandi described how the City of Madison can set the precedent in the nation to take action to solve the problems.

After the presentation, commissioners held a question and answer session with Brandi and a dialogue about the coalition.

6. [37127](#) Accepting the Report of the Commission on People with Disabilities Accessible Taxi Working Group.

Sponsors: Mark Clear

Attachments: [Taxi Report.pdf](#)

Jeff Burhandt, in representation of the Accessible Taxi Working Group, presented this report to the commission. He described the charge of the working group and research surrounding accessible taxi service in the City of Madison. Mr. Burhandt explained the recommendations and proposals the research yielded in the report, which showed a need increase the amount of accessible taxis in the City of Madison.

The commission held a question and answer session. Alder Anita Weier moved to accept the report. Percy Brown, Jr. seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote/other.

At 6:24 P.M. the commission agreed to a short recess and reconvene at 6:30 P.M.

7. Next Steps for the EOC Employment Subcommittee

Alder Anita Weier moved to reorganize the agenda to consider item number eight before item number seven. John Quinlan seconded the motion, and passed by voice vote/other.

Danielle Dieringer, EOC Employment Subcommittee Chair, explained the function of the subcommittee and current projects it is working to complete. The full commission held a dialogue surrounding next steps for the subcommittee and ways to strengthen the relationship between the commission and subcommittee. Ideas included a liaison from the EOC Employment Subcommittee to attend the full Equal Opportunities Commission meetings, as well as the idea of elevating the subcommittee to the status of a stand-alone commission.

The commission requested Danielle Dieringer to survey the subcommittee for their wants and needs of the commission, then to report back to the full commission for further instructions.

8. [37017](#) Amending Section 39.03 of the Madison General Ordinances to add atheism as a protected class.

Sponsors: Anita Weier and Ledell Zellers

Attachments: [Version 1](#)

The Commission agreed to suspend the rules to allow two presenters of the Freedom from Religion organization to present information to the group. The presenters each introduced themselves and provided the commission briefly with examples of discrimination against people who are atheist, as well as statistics surrounding such incidents. Commissioners asked questions of the presenters, then held a discussion surrounding the item.

Alder Anita Weier moved to approve amending Section 39.03 of the Madison General Ordinances to add atheism as a protected class. The motion was seconded by Moriah Grace and the commission continued discussion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion failed:

Yes: Alder Anita Weier, Moriah Grace, and Sean Saiz

No: Bill Fetty, Kira Stewart, John Quinlan, Charles McDowell, Susan Schmitz, Corianda RAiney-Moore, and Percy Brown, Jr.

Abstain: None

The commission decided they would prefer to further discuss and gather feedback from the EOC Employment Subcommittee regarding the item prior to approval. Alder Anita Weier moved to refer this item to the March 12, 2015 Equal Opportunities Commission meeting and the March 12, 2015 EOC Employment Subcommittee meeting. Kira Stewart seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote/other.

9. Race and Media in Madison

John Quinlan moved to refer this item to the March 12, 2015 Equal Opportunities Commission meeting. The motion was scounded by Sean Saiz, and passed by voice vote/other.

Percy Brown, Jr. moved to refer the remainder of the agenda to the March 12, 2015 Equal Opportunities Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by John Quinlan, and passed by voice vote/other.

REPORTS

10. Director's Report

This item was referred to the March 12, 2015 Equal Opportunities Commission meeting.

11. President's Report

This item was referred to the March 12, 2015 Equal Opportunities Commission meeting.

12. Committee Reports

This item was referred to the March 12, 2015 Equal Opportunities Commission meeting.

13. **FUTURE TOPICS FROM THE FLOOR**

This item was referred to the March 12, 2015 Equal Opportunities Commission meeting.

14. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

This item was referred to the March 12, 2015 Equal Opportunities Commission meeting.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

Percy Brown, Jr. moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 P.M. John Quinlan seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote/other.