



City of Madison

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION

Thursday, March 13, 2014

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 5:01 P.M. with president Fetty presiding.
The following attendance was confirmed:

Present (8): Alder Anita Weier, Moriah Grace, Charles McDowell, Bill Fetty,
Sean Saiz, David Bolles, Kathy Cramer, John Quinlan

Excused (3): Hedi Rudd, Shawn Peters, Percy Brown, Jr.

Staff (4): Lucia Nuñez, Eric Kestin, Charlyn Cruz-Nuñez, Alyssa Riphon

Guests (2): Captian Carl Gloede (Madison Police), Kevin Briski (Madison
Parks), Heather Allen (Common Council Office)

Members of the Public (1): LaShana Miller (EOC Employment Subcommitte
non-voting member)

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Cramer moved to approve the minutes with two spelling
corrections. The motion was seconded by Alder Weier and passed by voice
vote/other.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None

DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

5. Discussion: Homelessness in Madison

Captain Gloede and Mr. Briski introduced themselves and their departments. They helped the commission frame the question surrounding the issue of homelessness.

Captain Gloede provided an overview of the developmental changes that have occurred over the past three years and their ramifications on the issue of homelessness in Madison, particularly displacement. He also described collaboration between the City of Madison and Dane County to find solutions to homelessness, such as a permanent day shelter with programming. In relation to the Police Department, Captain Gloede described a small group of people without homes as accruing police calls, which are frequently due to issues of mental health or substance abuse.

Mr. Briski described the relationship between the homeless population and the City of Madison Parks Department. The homeless population is allowed, like other members of the public, to utilize the parks facilities, however Mr. Briski provided the commission with an overview of park policies, specifically with regard to alcohol and behavior, as well as hour limitations. He also described encampments, the policies and procedures surrounding encampments and lost/abandoned property. Mr. Briski also talked about the relationship between the homeless and City workers. Park Rangers, as well as Police Officers, have a knowledge of the population and tend to know many of the people without homes.

After the presentations, the commission asked questions with regard to the possibility of adding homelessness as a protected class to MGO 39.03. While Mr. Briski and Captain Gloede expressed they could not issue a statement, they stressed the importance of administering policy and procedure.

6. [32670](#) Accepting the Interim Report: “Demographic Change and the City of Madison: Findings of the Common Council Legislative Agenda Work Group on Demographic Change and Recommendations for Action” and approving a plan for implementing recommendations therein.

Sponsors: Scott J. Resnick, Lauren Cnare, Anita Weier, Matthew J. Phair, Michael E. Verveer, Lisa Subeck, Shiva Bidar-Sielaff, Larry Palm, Steve King, Ledell Zellers and Marsha A. Rummel

Attachments: [January 2014 Interim Demo Change Work Group Report.pdf](#)
[PowerPoint and Proposed Amendments- TPC 02.12.14.pdf](#)
[02.12.14 TPC Comments on Interim Rept of CC Leg Agenda Work Group on Memo Re - CDBG Committee Recs](#)

Heather Allen, Legislative Analyst for the Common Council, introduced the item to the commission through a detailed presentation. Ms. Allen described each part of the report, including the legislative agenda, methodology, data, as well as recommendations by other committees. Commissioners asked questions and held discussions throughout the presentation. LaShana Miller of the EOC Employment Subcommittee, sitting as a member of the public at this meeting, requested allowance to speak. Commissioner Quinlan moved to suspend the rules for Ms. Miller's comment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cramer and passed by voice vote/other. Ms. Miller asked Ms. Allen a clarifying question about the report.

After discussion, Commissioner Cramer moved to recommend the item to council with recommendations. Commissioner Quinlan seconded the motion with the amendment to extend submissions of recommendations until Thursday, March 20th. The amended motion was passed by voice vote/other.

7. [33032](#) Approval of letter drafted by EOC Executive Committee regarding the status, process and possibility of creating a protection for homelessness

Attachments: [Letter Draft.pdf](#)
[Letter Draft 2 - \(Revised by John Quinlan, 3.10.2014\).pdf](#)

The commission discussed the editions completed by Commissioner Quinlan. Commissioner Bolles moved to approve the letter. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cramer and passed by voice vote/other. The commission agreed to forward the letter to the Capital City Hues, the Madison Times and the Cap Times newspapers.

8. [31858](#) EOC Employment Subcommittee Election

President Fetty opened nominations for a member to sit on the EOC Employment Subcommittee. Commissioner Grace volunteered for the position. No other commissioners volunteered to sit on the subcommittee. Commissioner Cramer moved to approve the assignment of Commissioner Grace to the EOC Employment Subcommittee by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Saiz and passed by voice vote/other.

9. [33380](#) Approving the EOC Employment Subcommittee Membership Referral:
Kathy Hansen

Attachments: [Employment Subcommittee App - Kathy Hansen.pdf](#)

The commission reviewed the application of Kathy Hansen. After discussion, Commissioner McDowell moved to approve the applicaiton and forward it to the Mayor's Office for final approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Saiz and passed by voice vote/other.

10. [33019](#) Declaring Madison, Wisconsin a "Welcoming City" for immigrants and newcomers from all over the world.

Sponsors: Paul R. Soglin, Shiva Bidar-Sielaff, Larry Palm, Michael E. Verveer, Lisa Subeck, Maurice S. Cheeks, Ledell Zellers, Marsha A. Rummel, Scott J. Resnick, David Ahrens, Anita Weier, Joseph R. Clausius and Steve King

Attachments: [Website: Welcoming America](#)

Alder Weier introduced this item to the commission. After a discussion, Commissioner Quinlan moved to recommend to council to place on file. Commissioner Cramer seconded the motion, which was then passed by voice vote/other.

11. [33060](#) Calling on President Obama to impose moratorium on deportations that separate families from U.S citizen or Dream Act eligible children.

Sponsors: Shiva Bidar-Sielaff, Chris Schmidt, John Strasser, Larry Palm, Matthew J. Phair, Michael E. Verveer, Lisa Subeck, Maurice S. Cheeks, Marsha A. Rummel, Scott J. Resnick, David Ahrens, Anita Weier, Joseph R. Clausius and Ledell Zellers

President Fetty explained this item to the commission. After discussion, Commissioner Quinlan moved to recommend to council to place on file. The motion was seconded by Alder Weier and passed by voice vote/other.

REPORTS

12. Director's Report

Ms. Nuñez talked about vacancies currently on the commission. She noted the links provided on the agenda, asked commissioners to distribute the links widely and encourage people to apply.

13. President's Report

President Fetty, on behalf of the EOC Executive Committee, opened the floor for feedback regarding Zach Brandon's testimony from the February 13, 2014 meeting. The commission agreed to be a politically-conscious group when creating proposals to amend the Equal Opportunities Ordinance (MGO 39.03).

14. Committee Reports

EOC Executive Committee:

- Provided the full commission with an explanation of the EOC Retreat, which will be taking place at the next EOC meeting, scheduled for April 10, 2014

Common Council:

- Alder Weier had no updates for the commission

Appeals Committee:

- Provided the full commission with an overview of their meeting on March 6, 2014, and explained their reconsideration of a decision at an upcoming meeting on March 26, 2014

EOC Employment Subcommittee:

- Commissioner Saiz did not have updates for the commission, as the subcommittee meeting was cancelled this month

15. **FUTURE TOPICS FROM THE FLOOR**

None

16. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Quinlan announced an event and passed around flyers to the commissioners

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Bolles moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 P.M. Alder Weier seconded the motion, which was then passed by voice vote/other.