



City of Madison

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

Thursday, March 14, 2013

5:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Staff: Eric Kestin, Lucía Nuñez

Meeting was called to order by Chair Brian Benford at 5 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Walsh, seconded by Quinlan, to Approve the January 10, 2013 Minutes. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

ROLL CALL

Alder Solomon arrived at 5:03 pm.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Unemployment Protection

Kestin presented the legislative text from the bill to prohibit discrimination based on an individual's unemployment status passed by the New York City Council, the veto letter by Mayor Michael Bloomberg, and a memo written by Kestin on what other states are doing with regard to unemployment protection.

Cramer-Walsh explained that given the economy and the number of people unemployed she felt this was an important step. She would like staff to get similar language drawn up for the commission to propose to the Common Council. The commission should seek input from citizens and employers. Solomon stated that there is no question this type of discrimination is occurring. The following points were discussed: the layoffs at Webcrafters, training, unemployment compensation requirements to demonstrate that the unemployed are looking for jobs, the creation of a permanent class of unemployed that continue to fall behind in skills and training, need for a public hearing on this topic, collaboration with the Subcommittee on Employment.

Cramer-Walsh moved to connect with the Subcommittee on Employment at the same time for the Alder to work with the Attorney's Office to draft legislation based on the New York City's text to prohibit discrimination based on an individual's unemployment. Solomon seconded. Also staff should invite the City Attorney and a small group of EOC Commissioners to attend the next meeting of the Subcommittee on Employment.

A motion was made by Walsh, seconded by Solomon, to Refer to the EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION EMPLOYMENT SUBCOMMITTEE. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

2. Diversity Picnic

Refer to the next meeting.

REPORTS

3. Director's Report

Nuñez described a series of events being planned to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of key historical events of the Civil Rights Movement starting in August of this year and culminating in December with the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Equal Opportunities ordinance in December.

4. President's Report

Benford attended the last meeting of the Subcommittee on Employment where Terry Glodowski was honored for his 30 years of service to this committee.

5. Common Council Update

Solomon mentioned that with elections on April 2nd, he will have one more meeting. He informed the commission of how the next alder will be appointed to this commission.

6. Committee Reports

The Executive Committee did not meet because they lacked quorum.

7. Appeals Committee Report

No report.

8. Introduction of Future Items from the Floor

1. Homelessness: Benford would like to make sure that the subcommittee formed does meet. That subcommittee consists of Benford, Solomon, Fetty and Sinha.
2. Presentation by Jason Glozier on Disability Rights.
3. Diversity in Entertainment Venue Subcommittee; connect with Make Music Madison.
4. Current climate of diversity especially with regard to elections and the community of color; encourage candidates of color to run for office.
5. Diversity in general, giving voice to minority.
6. Facilitated strategic discussion about setting priorities and goals for the year.
7. Executive Committee at-large vacancy, hold election to fill.

9. Announcements

- UW Space Place a Family Science Night, March 15, 2013, 6 to 8 pm
- Health Souls Coalition, April 4, 2013, at Mt. Zion Church the movie Soul Food Junkie
- Kidney Screening, April 27, 2013

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Nerad, seconded by Sinha, to Adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote/other.