



City of Madison

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

Thursday, April 9, 2015

12:00 PM

Madison Water Utility
116 E. Olin Ave., Madison, WI 53715

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The Meeting of the EOC Employment Subcommittee was called to order at 12:15 p.m. Danielle Dieringer, Chair presiding.

Non-voting members present: Mary Coddington, Rochelle Wanner

Staff present: Lucía Nuñez, Annie Weatherby-Flowers

Present: 7 - Laura J. Zweber; Kathy Hansen; Danielle A. Dieringer; Cynthia A. Schmelzer; Vernon E. Blackwell; Georgia Pride Euler and David Witkowski

Absent: 3 - Margaret Leitinger; Jenny Wohlfert and Michele Thoren

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Schmelzer, seconded by Zweber, to Approve the March 12, 2015 Minutes. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

No disclosures or recusals.

HOST OVERVIEW

Danielle Dieringer gave an overview of the YWCA services, including providing housing to low-income women, small single female households, and providing shelter for homeless families. Dieringer shared information about the YWCA's Moxie Conference, Women's Leadership Conference and will feature this year's Distinguished Woman Award Recipients.

REPORTS

1. Chair Report

Dieringer report back regarding items before the Commissions, non-religion protection passed and referring homelessness back to the Subcommittee. Dieringer made a request to rescheduled May's meeting due to the MadRep ULGM Diversity Summit. Dieringer recommend that the Subcommittee reject the idea of becoming a stand-alone committee and asked that staff research options that would best fit this group. Discussion on the pros and cons of becoming a stand-alone committee and rescheduling May's meeting ensued.

2. Staff Report

Staff reported about the new members of the Council recently elected and the legislative process regarding the passage of non-religion and the referral of the homelessness protection to CDBG and EOC to look at expanded the coverage to include housing, employment and accommodation.

3. Commission Report

No EOC Commissioners Report.

NEW BUSINESS

4. [37018](#)

Amending Section 39.03 of the Madison General Ordinances to add homelessness as a protected class

The Subcommittee discussed the expansion of proposed amendment to Sec. 39.03, of the Madison General Ordinances to include Homelessness as protected class to include employment. The consensus was that being homeless would fall into the category of a life event similar to divorce, loss of a spouse and covered under Employee Assistance Program and other leave such as FMLA. Homelessness is not a consideration in the employment process.

Cindy Schmelzer made a motion stating that the Subcommittee cannot support the amendment to include homelessness in employment; Laura Zweber made a friendly amendment to the motion: the Subcommittee advises against adding homelessness as a protection in employment.

Discussion: Vernon Blackwell opposed the motion due to concerns for job seekers who apply to small businesses for employment.

A motion was made by Schmelzer, seconded by Witkowski, to Return to Lead with the Following Recommendation(s) to the EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION. The motion passed by the following vote:

Absent: 3 - Margaret Leitinger; Jenny Wohlfert and Michele Thoren

Ayes: 5 - Laura J. Zweber; Danielle A. Dieringer; Georgia Pride Euler; David Witkowski and Cynthia A. Schmelzer

Noes: 1 - Vernon E. Blackwell

Non Voting: 1 - Kathy Hansen

Due to time constraints, Dieringer called for a motion to table the rest of the agenda until next meeting.

A motion was made by Schmelzer, seconded by Zweber, to table the rest of the agenda until next meeting. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Schmelzer, seconded by Zweber, to Adjourn at 1:35 p.m. The motion passed by voice vote/other.