

City of Madison
Meeting Minutes - Final
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES
COMMISSION

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

Thursday, March 10, 2005

5:00 PM

215 MLKJ BLVD RM LL-120 (MMB)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:07 p.m., Megin McDonell presiding. In response to an inquiry by McDonell, staff stated that the meeting had been properly noticed.

Present: Ald. Gregory Markle, Nia Enemuoh-Trammell, Henry C. Boyd III, Teresa Tellez-Giron, Bert Zipperer, Daniel L. Ross, Megin L. McDonell, Ann M. Smith and Michael W. T. Howe

Excused: Ramona L. Natera, Carousel Andrea S. Bayrd, Kabzuag K. Vaj and Steven H. Morrison

2. Oral Arguments in Case No. 20022247, Nicks v. Home Health United

The oral arguments and closed session in Case No. 20022247 will be acted upon at the Commission's April meeting.

A motion was made by Zipperer, seconded by Howe, to Refer to the EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION for action at April meeting. The motion passed by acclamation.

3. Executive Session

A motion was made by Zipperer, seconded by Howe, to Refer to the EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION for action at April meeting. The motion passed by acclamation.

4. Reconvene in Open Session

A motion was made by Zipperer, seconded by Howe, to Refer to the EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION for action on the April agenda. The motion passed by acclamation.

5. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Howe, seconded by Ald. Markle, to Approve the Minutes as amended, reflecting a change on page 2 relative to the motion remanding the case to the Hearing Examiner relative to compensatory damages that Zipperer made the motion. The motion passed by acclamation.

6. Vice President's Report

Hicks reported that the presentation to former Commissioner Paul Marunich of the Certificate of Appreciation would take place at the beginning of the April meeting.

7. Interim Director's Report

In Ford's absence, Eric Kestin read the report (attached to file minutes).

8. Statements from the Public

None.

9. Announcements of Upcoming Community Events

Ross reported that the annual AIDS Network Awards Dinner will be held April 1.

Tellez-Giron reported that a "Celebrating Children" event will be held at Darbo on April 30. She hoped that the EOC would have an information table at the event.

Zipperer asked Tellez-Giron to speak briefly about LaSup. She explained that the name stands for Latino Support Network. It has a listserv and meets monthly. It is a group made up of professionals who provide services to the Latino community. David Lopez of the EOC has made a presentation to the group. Contact Tellez-Giron to be added to the listserv.

10. Committee Reports

a. EOC Executive Committee

Zipperer provided a summary of discussions at the last EOC Executive Committee meeting. He reported that the Committee has moved several pending items off the EOC agenda onto the Executive Committee agenda. When there is information to report, the items will be placed on the Commission agenda. The Committee discussed the Vision Statement for Allied Drive and asked that correspondence be forwarded to the Allied Community Association. A copy of the correspondence was distributed (attached to file minutes). The Committee also reviewed discussions that have taken place at the Department of Civil Rights Committee meetings.

b. EOC Employment Committee

Enemuoh-Trammell reported that she had attended the last meeting of the Committee. The Committee has a new Chair who did a fine job of conducting the meeting. The Committee broke into subcommittees to discuss upcoming projects. The Committee plans to hold a Diversity Job Fair this fall at Monona Terrace or the Kohl Center targeted towards students on campus, but that will be open to all.

Enemuoh-Trammell reported that her term on the Commission expires in April and she will not seek reappointment. For this reason, she will need to decline an appointment as the Commission's representative to the EOC Employment Committee.

A motion was made by Zipperer, seconded by Howe, to Approve wishing Enemuoh-Trammell well in her future endeavors. The motion passed by acclamation.

11. Unfinished Business

a. Update on Proposed Reorganization Study of Affirmative Action and EOC

Blackwell provided highlights of the presentation made by staff at the March 2 meeting of the DCR Committee. Kestin reviewed the materials distributed to the Committee.

Zipperer stated how impressed and proud he was to be a member of the Commission after hearing the staff presentation. He stated that he is amazed by the number of hours Ariel Ford is putting in as Interim Director.

The next meeting of the Committee is March 17. There will be no opportunity for public comment at that meeting.

Zipperer summarized discussion at the last Committee meeting. The Committee went on record supporting the funding for housing testing and the Language Assistance Program. No position was taken on funds for a recruiter.

Zipperer asked to see budget documents that reflect that funds would not be available to maintain the status quo in the 2005 budget. Wick will contact Annette Miller for the information. It was agreed that when received, the item would be distributed to all Commissioners and placed on the EOC Executive Committee agenda.

Commissioner Tellez-Giron left at this time.

b. Update on Minimum Wage

Allen reported that all briefs have been submitted in the pending court action. Oral arguments will be held on March 30. Allen will provide information on time and location to the Interim Director. He reported that Eau Claire is in the final stages of introducing its minimum wage ordinance. Milwaukee has adopted its ordinance. There is no progress to report on adoption of an increase in the State minimum wage. Congress also failed to pass a bill raising the national minimum wage.

Howe asked if the Madison ordinance applies to the UW Hospital. It may apply to some employees.

c. Update on Constitutional Amendment Banning Same Sex Civil Marriage and Civil Unions

Ross reported that second passage of the proposed constitutional amendment has not occurred. Therefore, the matter will not be on the April ballot.

Allen reported that City Attorney Michael May has issued an opinion on the impact of such an amendment on the City's benefits for domestic partners.

d.

Language Assistance Program provision of translators/interpreters at EOC/City meetings.

Allen stated that there is not a City-wide LAP policy. Title VI only applies to City agencies that have Federal contracts. The EOC has such a contract. The Commission wondered if it would be required to provide translators or interpreters at its meetings and whether, as a matter of policy, the notice of availability of translators/interpreters should appear on their agendas in additional languages.

A motion was made by Howe, seconded by Zipperer, to Refer to the EOC Department for research and a report back to the EOC Executive Committee. The motion passed by acclamation.

e. Voter Registration Proposal--Howe

Howe had no specific proposal at this time.

12. New Business

Wick presented an ordinance amendment relative to the annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award that will be on the next agenda.

Enemuoh-Trammell alerted the Commission that it will need to recommend a replacement for her on that Committee.

Allen offered to make a presentation on Roberts Rules for the Commission at a future meeting. The Commission hopes to take this up at its May meeting.

13. Adjourn

A motion was made by Howe, seconded by Ross, to Adjourn at 6:34 p.m. The motion passed by acclamation.

Minutes prepared by Cynthia L. Wick, EOC Executive Assistant