



City of Madison

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

Meeting Minutes - Amended EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION

Thursday, February 13, 2014

5:00 PM

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

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The Equal Opportunitites Commission meeting was called to order at 5:00 P.M. with Secretary Quinlan presiding. The following attendance was confirmed:

Present: (9) Alder Anita Weier, Shawn Peters, John Quinlan, Narendra Sinha, Moriah Grace, Sean Saiz, Kathy Cramer, David Bolles and Bill Fetty (arrived at 5:07 P.M.)

Excused: (2) Hedi Rudd and Charles McDowell

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

Guests: (3) Zach Brandon (Chamber of Commerce), Doug Strub (Meridian) and Jason Glozier (Department of Civil Rights, Disability Rights and Services Program)

Members of the Public: (3) Dave Carrig, Patricia Johnson and Edward Kuharski

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alder Weier moved to approve the minutes from the January 16, 2014 meeting with the following amdeendments under item number five, "Discussion: Homelessness in Madison":

- Paragraph four: the replacement of "discussed" with "discussion" in sentence one, and the addition of the word "be" after "would" in sentence two.
- Paragraph five: the deletion of the word "and" in sentence two (after the word "supersede").

Mr. Sinha seconded Alder Weier's motion with proposed amendments, which was passed by voice vote/other.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public wished to speak to items on the Equal Opportunities Commission agenda.

4. DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None

DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

5. Discussion: Homelessness in Madison

(Mr. Fetty arrived at 5:07 P.M. and forth presided)

Zach Brandon served as the presenter for the Chamber of Commerce. As a former Equal Opportunities Commissioner, Mr. Brandon posed questions to the commission, such as the clarification of their role in addressing the issue of homelessness and their jurisdiction over providing solutions to the problems. Stressing the importance of the protection of process, Mr. Brandon raised issues about adding a protection for homeless to the Equal Opportunities Ordinance (MGO 39.03), which included topics of business engagement (as complaints can only be filed against businesses), approach and external pressure. Mr. Brandon described the importance of business community representation in this dialogue. He suggested the Commission clarify homelessness as either a protected class or status, and to consider the possibility of excessive regulation through the addition of many protected classes. Mr. Brandon stressed the importance of preserving the original mission of the Equal Opportunities Ordinance, as it was created fifty years ago, and the possible consequences or legislative risks in adding another protected class.

Following Mr. Brandon's dialogue was a short discussion with the commission about excessive regulation and the engagement of the EOC Employment Subcommittee while considering the addition of a protected class for people without homes.

Doug Strub served as the presenter for Meridian. He first introduced Meridian and thier connection with the homeless population in Madison, in which the majority of Meridian properties are considered affordable housing units. He cautioned the commission from categorizing "homeless" people though the addition of a protected class; each household is unique and cannot be reduced categorically. Mr. Strub gave the commission examples as to the way a protected class for people without homes would apply to housing, both successfully and unsuccessfully. He stressed the importance of organizations that find a permanent solution to the issue of homelessness and the high success rate of case management.

6. Discussion: Department of Civil Rights, Disability Rights and Services Program

Jason Glozier, Disability Rights and Services Program Coordinator, introduced the Department of Civil Rights Disability Rights and Services Program to the commissioners. He described many facets of the program, including equitable access, compliance with the law, City of Madison accessibility, compliance in community-based organizations and education for the community about disabilities.

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 Equal Opportunities Commission referred this item back to the EOC Executive Committee for further editing prior to approval. They agreed to review the item once again at the March 13, 2014 Equal Opportunities Commission meeting.

9. [31806](#) EOC Executive Committee Election

Alder Weier nominated herself as an interim member to sit on the EOC Executive Committee. No other commissioner volunteered for the position. Commissioner Cramer moved to approve the nomination, which was seconded by Commissioner Sinha and passed by voice vote/other.

10. Discussion: The Relationship between Historical Homes and Civil Rights

Commissioner Quinlan introduced this topic to the commission. He talked about the significance of historical homes, such as 123 W. Gilman, and their relationship to Civil Rights, particularly the LGBT movement in Madison. Mr. Quinlan asked whether the full Commission should issue a statement to the Landmarks Commission about this topic. However, due to jurisdictional limitations, the commission agreed to withdraw from the topic and express support or opposition on an individual basis.

REPORTS

11. Director's Report

Ms. Nuñez reported to the commission about the community forum held by the City of Madison's Racial Equity and Social Justice team. She also described the upcoming White Privilege Conference and encouraged members of the commission to attend.

12. President's Report

President Fetty connected with the EOC Employment Subcommittee Chair, Amos Anderson, and reported to the full commission about his conversation. He described the importance of keeping a strong connection between the Equal Opportunities Commission and the EOC Employment Subcommittee through communication.

13. Committee Reports

- EOC Executive Committee:

The EOC Executive Committee reported to the full commission about their meeting on February 3, 2013. They described the discussion surrounding homelessness in Madison with Susan Schmitz from Downtown Madison, Inc. In addition, the EOC Executive Committee introduced the EOC Retreat, which will be taking place at the April 10, 2014 meeting.

-Common Council:

Alder Weier reported to the commission on behalf of the Common Council. She described specific items that were passed, and updated the commission about items sparking discussion.

-Appeals Committee:

No updates.

-EOC Employment Subcommittee:

Commissioner Sinha reported to the commission as the liaison for the February 13, 2014 EOC Employment Subcommittee meeting. He described his experience at his first meeting and the tasks the EOC Employment Subcommittee is working to complete.

14. FUTURE TOPICS FROM THE FLOOR

- Presentation of the City's Equity Impact Model by a member of the Racial Equity and Social Justice team.

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Alex Gee's Town Hall Meeting
- Commissioner Quinlan described his trip to New York and its relation to Civil Rights

16. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:39 P.M., Alder Weier moved to adjourn the meeting. Commission Saiz seconded the motion, which was then passed by voice vote/other.