



# City of Madison

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

## Meeting Minutes - Approved EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION

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Thursday, February 5, 2009

5:00 PM

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

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:09 p.m., Nia Enemuoh-Trammell presiding, in the absence of the President.

**Present:** 7 -

Erika H. Braunginn; Charles E. McDowell; Donna V. Hurd; Brian L. Solomon; Nia Enemuoh-Trammell; Carousel Andrea S. Bayrd and Megin H. McDonell

**Absent:** 1 -

Brian Benford

**Excused:** 4 -

Coco Bustamante; Bert G. Zipperer; Katherine Cramer Walsh and Steven H. Morrison

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by McDonell, seconded by Solomon, to Approve the Minutes with the following amendments: to correct the spelling of McDonell's and Braunginn's names and to correct two spelling errors in the paragraph prior to adjournment. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

### REPORTS

#### 4. [08355](#) PRESIDENT'S REPORT--For information only. No action required.

*Bert Zipperer, EOC President, will summarize meetings attended and other related activities on behalf of the Commission since the last Commission meeting. For information only. Any item raised for future discussion will be posted as "New Business" on the next agenda.*

Enemuoh-Trammell indicated that she had no report.

#### 5. [13093](#) DIRECTOR'S REPORT- For information only. No action required.

*Lucía Nuñez, DCR Director, will report on the following:*

- a. Her activities and meetings since the last meeting.*
- b. Update on agency activities.*

**Nuñez introduced Christina Thiel, the Clerk Typist who currently staffs the front desk at the DCR offices.**

**Commissioner Benford arrived at 5:13 a.m.**

**Present:** 8 -

Erika H. Braunginn; Charles E. McDowell; Donna V. Hurd; Brian L. Solomon; Nia Enemuoh-Trammell; Brian Benford; Carousel Andrea S. Bayrd and Megin H. McDonell

**Excused:** 4 -

Coco Bustamante; Bert G. Zipperer; Katherine Cramer Walsh and Steven H. Morrison

**Nuñez reported that Commissioner Lauren Woods had submitted her resignation on February 5, 2009. The Commission presently has one vacancy. She asked if Commissioners had people to recommend as a replacement to let her know. Bayrd recommended John Quinlan. She also stated it would be helpful to have a representative from the Hmong community.**

**The terms of Benford, McDonell and Solomon expire in April. Nuñez asked that they let her know if they wish to be reappointed.**

**Nuñez stated that she is back to work full time.**

**6. [08357](#)**

**DIVISION MANAGER'S REPORT--For information only. No action required.**

*Ariel Ford, Equal Opportunities Division Manager, will report on the following:*

- a. Activities of the Division since the last meeting.*
- b. Update on staff activities.*
- c. Update on the EEOC Contract.*

**Ford reported that Eric Kestin made a presentation on Hate Crimes at Madison Urban Ministry. The Power Point presentation will be added to the DCR website soon.**

**The Equal Opportunities Division has completed 40 percent of its contracted cases with EEOC for this fiscal year (57 cases).**

**The first meeting of the Appeal Panel has been scheduled tentatively for March 2.**

**Ford offered individual training for those Commissioners that have not yet attended the training on appeals or new Commissioner training. She asked**

those Commissioners to contact her to schedule training.

7. [12507](#)

COMMON COUNCIL UPDATE--For information only. No action required.

Ald. Brian Solomon will provide an update on Common Council actions since the last Commission meeting.

Solomon reported that the Cub grocery store is going out of business in the Allied neighborhood and that the bus fare issue continues to be of concern.

A Safety and Security Committee for Allied is being formed to improve interactions between the community and police. Solomon hopes to broaden the concept for use in other neighborhoods.

The Mayor has announced a new poverty initiative and placed Enis Ragland in charge.

The Mayor has also created a Housing Diversity Committee to work on replacement of the inclusionary zoning program. Solomon stated that he has been asked to serve on this new committee.

Bayrd stated that there is also a housing committee that she serves on. On that committee, she represents the Dane County Housing Authority.

8. [08358](#)

COMMITTEE REPORTS--For information only. No action required.

*Reports summarizing discussions at meetings held since the last meeting. For information only. Any item raised for discussion appears under Unfinished Business or will be posted as "New Business" on the next agenda.*

- a. EOC Executive Committee
- b. EOC Employment Committee

**EOC Executive Committee:** Enemuoh-Trammell summarized discussions that occurred at the January 26 EOC Executive Committee meeting. Topics included the Chronic Nuisance Ordinance, Commission vacancies, hearing caseload--including that Claudia Catota and Eric Kestin are now assisting with No Probable Cause Appeals, genetic identity, Check Cashing Committee final report, State coverage of domestic abuse, education for new Commissioners, and a possible Commission retreat.

The Committee deferred action on issues relative to adding Social Security Number protections to all sections of the Equal Opportunities Ordinance and Alienage.

Relative to the State coverage of domestic abuse, it was suggested that we invite Mario Mendoza, the City lobbyist, to a future meeting to see if the City could add this to the items it is lobbying the State legislature for. Nuñez stated that she had spoken with Patty Seeger at the Wisconsin Coalition on Domestic Violence. Seeger stated that the definitions in the State Statute were purposely broad as there was concern about specifying lesbian or gay because individuals may not be ready to come out.

Nuñez will provide information to the EOC Executive Committee. Seeger has offered to attend that meeting as well.

EOC Employment Committee: The Committee was unable to meet in February due to lack of quorum.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9. [12065](#) Amending Section 25.09 of the Madison General Ordinances to change various provisions of the ordinance recommended by the Equal Opportunities Commission.

A motion was made by Bayrd, seconded by Benford, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER.

Discussion: McDonell summarized the discussion that had taken place at the EOC Executive Committee meeting.

Concern was expressed that since the Public Safety Review Board (PSRB) did not support the amendments to sections 2(a)2 and 2(c), that these amendments would likely not pass.

Ald. Solomon offered possible compromises he might offer from the Council Floor to obtain enough votes for passage.

Bayrd sees two different legal standards at play. The standard for sufficiency of evidence to file criminal charges and the standard for declaring a property a chronic nuisance. She believes the additional time necessary for the District Attorney to file formal charges is not significant enough to warrant using a lower legal standard for declaring a property a chronic nuisance.

McDonell stated that the reason charges are not filed is usually due to insufficient evidence.

The motion passed by voice vote/other.

## NEW BUSINESS

10. [13154](#) Planned Schedule for Commissioners for Review of Cases on Appeal

Attachments: [13154 appeals schedule.pdf](#)

Ford asked that Commissioners that have not received training on conducting appeals, contact her to schedule a training session. No Commissioner will be allowed to review cases without training.

Meetings of the Appeal Panel will need to be noticed and held in rooms accessible to the public. Two cases are currently assigned.

Bustamante, Hurd, Zipperer and Bayrd (alternate) will be the first Appeal Panel. The alternate has to attend to hear the discussion, even if they do not vote on the case.

11. [12929](#) Blue Ribbon Committee on Clean Elections

Attachments: [community stakeholders ltr.pdf](#)

The Commission reviewed the letter. At this time, the Commission does not plan to respond to the letter.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Solomon, seconded by Benford, to Adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote/other. The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Cindy Wick, DCR Executive Assistant