



City of Madison

Meeting Minutes - Final

COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

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

Thursday, May 26, 2005

4:30 PM

215 MLKJ BLVD RM 260 (MMB)

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Staff Present: Enis T. Ragland, Interim Affirmative Action Director, Nancy Castillo, Admin Clerk I

Present: Ald. Paul E. Skidmore, Mary P. Conroy, Robert P. Monahan, Michael W. T. Howe, Randy G. Black, Nancy R. Kathman, Jeff C. Erlanger, Alice J. Fike, Lynn A. Peterson, David M. Poast and Gregory B. Banks

Absent: Michael C. O'Connor

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Fike, seconded by Ald. Skidmore, to Approve the Minutes. The motion passed by acclamation.

4. PUBLIC HEARING

Chair Michael Howe presided over the public hearing. Jeff Erlanger motioned to strike Item 5 from the agenda, Nancy Kathman seconded the motion. The motion passed by acclamation.

The Chair reminded Alternate Commission Member Greg Banks the he would be voting at the meeting because of the vacancies or absences of other commission members.

There were three registrants at the public hearing

- One individual registered and spoke in opposition*
- One individual registered and spoke in support*
- One individual registered in support and was available to answer questions from the Commission*

Speakers were given three minutes to give testimony, with an immediate option of an additional 1 minute.

Ariel Ford, Interim Executive Director of the Equal Opportunity Commission whose staff opposed the creation of the Department of Civil Rights was asked questions by the Commission. She did not register as a speaker, she was asked to register by the Commission.

An additional registrant who opposed the creation of the Department of Civil Rights gave testimony.

A previous registrant who had already given testimony asked for an additional 2 minutes. Mary Conroy motioned to grant the request, Alice Fike seconded. The motion passed by acclamation.

This concluded the public hearing portion of the meeting.

5. QUESTIONS OF SPEAKERS

**6. CPD RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL
ON DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT**

01037

Report recommendations of the Department of Civil Rights Ad Hoc Committee.

Jeff Erlanger provided a summary of the Ad Hoc Committee on the creation of the Department of Civil Rights findings, report and recommendations. There was discussion regarding the summary.

Bob Monahan motioned that the CPD accept the report of the Ad Hoc Committee but that it does not endorse it or reject the recommendation of the formation of the Department of Civil Rights. Alice Fike seconded.

There was discussion on the motion. Bob Monahan questioned if Disability Rights and Services would be improved in the city. He asked would the lives of people with disabilities be improved as a result of the new Department of Civil Rights? His main problem has been and continues to be, from the start to the finished report from the Ad Hoc Committee, he feels the issues and concerns of people with disabilities were not present.

Jeff Erlanger stated if the CPD doesn't think disability rights had been highlighted enough by the Ad Hoc Committee, the CPD should make its own recommendations to the report and then endorse it.

Alder Paul Skidmore was not comfortable with the motion and felt it is the CPDs responsibility to make recommendations.

Mary Conroy stated she would like something positive about what the CPD would like to see for disability rights in the DCR.

Michael Howe stated the CPD had already made recommendations on any potential revamping of the Disability Rights Program to the Mayor and Common Council at a previous CPD meeting.

Nancy Kathman Stated she prefers the CPD accept and support the report. She thinks there are good things such as fostering education and advocacy in the report. She would like the CPD to make positive statements. Perhaps, Disability Rights should be considered a unit.

Randy Black asked Alder Skidmore , if the CPD rejected the report, would they be alone . Michael Howe stated the EOC rejected the report.

Alder Skidmore stated he believes the CPD is an important body and it is their obligation to have an opinion and recommendations. The CPD should make a statement instead of saying the CPD neither accepts or rejects the report.

Randy Black suggested make and receive the recommendations for our support. We need to get the language in the resolution.

Michael Howe stated the CPD should ponder for themselves that no one from the Mayor's Office has been visible at the CPD meeting today.

Bob Monahan stated he would like to clarify his motion, He doesn't think the recommendation of the creation of the Department of Civil Rights has anything to do with the issues surrounding disabilities, Therefore it is hard to endorse it. The CPD should be taking up the issues of where the Disability Rights Program should be housed, how the City should be more proactive to improve the quality of life with people with disabilities. He doesn't believe the Ad Hoc Committee Report suggesting or endorsing a Department of Civil Rights gets to that point. That is the clarification of his motion.

There was a call for a vote.

Mary Conroy -No

Alice Flke- No

Jeff Erlanger- No

Nancy Kathman- No

Randy Black No

Paul Skidmore - No

David Poast - No

Bob Monahan- Aye

Lynn Peterson- Aye

Greg Banks - Aye

Motion failed by a vote of 3 to 7.

A motion was made by Erlanger, seconded by Conroy, to Return to Lead with the Following Recommendation(s) to the Mayor's Office :The CPD supports and accepts the DCR report if the Common Council accepts following recommendations:

A. If there will be a new Department of Civil Rights (DCR), the CPD wants the name "Disability Rights Program " to be changed to " Disability Rights and Services Program" (DR&SP), which shall be on equal footing with Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunities functions within that new DCR. COMMENT: by this we mean that DCR would be composed of three different EQUAL program areas, being EO and AA and DR&SP

B. The person in charge of the DR&SP should be titled " Disability Rights & Services Program Coordinator."

C. Additional staff shall be assigned to the program to support the DR&SP Coordinator with the technical and clerical skills necessary to successfully run the program.

D. The DR&SP Coordinator would have direct / regular access to the Mayor and his aide who is responsible for the DCR.

E. The DR&SP shall have a budget and accessible office space commensurate with the functions it shall be required to perform.

The motion passed by acclamation.

7. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Conroy, seconded by Black, to Adjourn. The motion passed by acclamation.

