



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Draft EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION

Thursday, October 27, 2016

5:00 PM

Goodman Community Center
149 Waubesa Street, Merry Lynch Room

COMMISSIONER ZACH MADDEN WILL BE APPEARING VIA PHONE

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by co-chair Moriah Grace at 5:02 PM.

Others present: Alder Barbara Harrington-McKinney, Alder Samba Baldeh, Equal Opportunities Division Manager Byron Bishop, and EOD Administrative Clerk Josue Peralta.

Ms. Rainey-Moore arrived to the meeting at 6:30pm.

Mr. Madden left the meeting at 6:34pm.

Present: 8 - Rebecca Kemble; Melanie G. Ramey; Sean A. Saiz; Adam W. Brabender; Moriah N. Grace; Charles E. McDowell; Zach A. Madden and Corinda Rainey-Moore

Absent: 1 - Jose E. Rea

Excused: 2 - Susan M. Schmitz and William (Bill) Fetty

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Adam Brabender moved to approve the minutes from the meeting on August 11, 2016 without correction. The motion was seconded by Melanie Ramey and passed by voice vote.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Sue Partor addressed the commission in support of item number 6. She expressed concerns about the fact that distractions on the median could produce accidents that cause even more accidents. Ms. Partor spoke in opposition to the thinking that having persons attract the attention of drivers won't cause a distraction that could prove badly. Commissioner Ramey motioned to extend Sue Partor's time. The motion was seconded by Kemble, and passed via voice vote. Ms. Partor continued to express her idea that the item is about safety. After she spoke, she answered some questions from the commissioners.

Anne Monks also addressed the commission in support of item number 6. Ms. Monks addressed the perception that the proposed ordinance is anti-homeless. She spoke of her personal experience with the issue, and reported of seeing near-accidents because of it. Ms. Monks also expressed the idea that prioritizing safety is not discriminatory. After she spoke, she answered some questions from the commissioners.

4. DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

There were no disclosures or recusals.

DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

5. [44085](#) Authorizing the renewal of an ongoing work-sharing agreement with State of Wisconsin Equal Rights Division of the Department of Workforce Development for the City of Madison Equal Opportunities Division.

Division Manager Byron Bishop gave an overview of the item, as it is after it was learned that the current worksharing agreement had not been updated in the past few years. He noted there were no budgetary implications, and it adds the ability to transfer cases both to the State of Wisconsin's Equal Rights Division. Zach Madden then motioned to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER**. The motion was seconded by Brabender, and passed by voice vote.

6. [44204](#) Repeal and recreate Section 12.325 of the Madison General Ordinances to limit persons entering or staying on highways.

Attachments: [Body](#)
[Mayor Soglin's memo.8.25.16](#)
[DRAFT RESJI Analysis Tool 9 6 16.pdf](#)
[Distracted Driver Crash Facts](#)

Commissioner Brabender motioned to recommend to lead with the recommendation to place on file without prejudice of the public safety review committee, and was seconded by Charles McDowell. The commissioners then asked the supporting alders in attendance for their reasoning on supporting the ordinance.

Alder Harrington-McKinney addressed the commission first stating she was initially against the proposed ordinance. She spoke to the commission about how the issue to her was about safety, and how this is not the solution we want for those who might feel like they have to stand on the medians. She continued in saying that she is now continually motivated also by what she has personally seen, not just from what her constituents have said. Ms. Harrington-McKinney then answered some questions from the commissioners. Alder Samba Baldeh followed Alder Harrington-McKinney by echoing her notion that the City has to do a better job of addressing the needs of those potential individuals who stand on the medians. Mr. Baldeh then answered questions from the commissioners.

The commissioners discussed amongst themselves the different implications of implementing the proposed ordinance. During the discussion, commissioner Ramey called the question to stop discussion. Acting chair Moriah Grace called the item to a vote. The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: Sean Saiz, Zach Madden, Charles McDowell, Adam Brabender, Melanie Ramey, Moriah Grace
No: Rebecca Kemble
Abstain: None

7. [44806](#) Suggestions for future meeting locations in the community

The commissioners brainstormed different locations for the commission to be held. The following were proposed:

Warner Park, Urban League, Sequoya, South Madison Library, Meadowridge Library, Central Library, Goodman Community Center, Lussier Commiunity Center, Boys and Girls Club, Centro Hispano, Disability Rights Wisconsin, amongst others.

REPORTS

8. Common Council

Alder Kemble spoke of how it's nearing the end of budget season, though there is still time for amendments to come. She also spoke of how proud she is for the City resolving to make the second Monday in October Indigenous People's Day in the City of Madison.

9. Division Manager

Equal Opportunities Division Manager Byron Bishop gave his report of the Division. He began taking about the status of cases, followed by speaking about the process of complaints and workload. He then expressed his want for the Department of Civil Rights to become self sustainable by internally increasing processes and program refvenue to match the growth so we that the department can effectively meet the needs of the commmunity it serves. Manager Bishop then expressed the Department's need for new internal technologies to better serve the need of the department. Furthermore, he introduced to the commission a proposal of different rule changes to allow the Division to use electronic communication as an official form of communication.

10. FUTURE TOPICS FROM THE FLOOR

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The commissioners recognized alder Kemble for her stance at the Dakota Access Pipeline in North Dakota.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Saiz motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:46pm. The motion was seconded by Brabender and passed by voice vote.