



City of Madison

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

Meeting Minutes - Approved EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION

Thursday, September 16, 2010

5:00 PM

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

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Nia Enemuoh-Trammell, President.

Present: 11 -

Nia Enemuoh-Trammell; Coco Bustamante; Brian Benford; John L. Quinlan; Bert G. Zipperer; Katherine Cramer Walsh; Rick Cruz; Amanda L. Harrington; Charles E. McDowell; Donna V. Hurd and Benjamin M. Nerad

Absent: 1 -

Brian L. Solomon

Excused: 1 -

Lisa B. Subeck

Staff: Ariel Ford, Eric Kestin, and Lucia Nuñez

Guest: Dr. Zheng Xiaohua, Visiting Scholar from Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The first paragraph of Item 9 in the August 12, 2010 minutes should be corrected to say, "as written because it is too permissive."

A motion was made by Benford and seconded by Zipperer to Approve the Minutes with the suggested correction. Motion passed.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. [15179](#)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT--For information only. No action required.

Nia Enemuoh-Trammell, 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 on the next agenda.

New Commissioners were encouraged to take advantage of training opportunities offered, such as the EOD staff training about the Commission and its responsibilities.

Enemuoh-Trammell received a response from Assistant City Attorney Adriana Peguero. According to Peguero, the Commission can create something that explains the process as long as the document created is not interpreted as providing legal advice. Peguero recommended modeling it after a brochure the Municipal Court provides to parties. The City Attorney's office would like to read the document created before it is released to the public.

Enemuoh-Trammell also spoke with Attorney Mitch at UW Law Clinic and they would be willing to create a detailed manual that the EOC would be able to proof for accuracy. Attorney Mitch will speak with his students regarding working on the manual.

Staff encouraged Commissioners to review the DCR website for brochures that are already available to the public.

Executive Committee should decide the best way to proceed with this issue.

5. [17832](#)

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 spoke to Dr. Walsh's UW Political Science class, and two students will be working with the Department of Civil Rights as volunteer interns. One is interested in policy and may be interested in working directly with the Equal Opportunities Commission or other DCR Commissions. The other student will be working directly with EOD staff.

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.*

The EOD has submitted the 60 cases required of its EEOC contract.

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 was not in attendance so no update was given.

Zipperer raised a concern that the Taxi Cab Ordinance was voted on at the last Common Council Meeting. The Commission was not notified about this ahead of time even though this body had raised strong concerns about this proposed Ordinance. Other Commissioners also raised concerns about process issues regarding people not being aware of when matters are going before the Common Council.

The idea was raised that perhaps there needs to be a formal process where Common Council staff notifies Committees/Commissions/Boards when something that was referred to those bodies comes before the Common Council, thus better enabling members to attend these meetings.

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 "Introduction of Future Items From the Floor" on the next agenda.

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

Enemuoh-Trammell and other Executive Committee members reported that they discussed media and blog responses and who speaks for the Commission. As a general rule, any formal response on behalf of the Commission must go through the Executive Committee. However, any Commissioner may speak as an individual on an issue, but must indicate that they are speaking as an individual and not for the Commission. The Executive Committee will draft a formal policy on how to handle media and blog relations.

Harrington and Quinlan volunteered to help the Executive Committee formulate such a policy.

The Commissioners were reminded that the e-mail address they use to receive information regarding the Commission is available to the public. Commissioners who may have concerns may want to create a separate e-mail account to receive Commission e-mails.

9. [13853](#)

APPEALS COMMITTEE REPORT

For information only. No action required.

There was no update as the Appeals Committee has not met since the last Commission meeting.

Walsh left at 5:43 p.m.

Present: 10 -

Nia Enemuoh-Trammell; Coco Bustamante; Brian Benford; John L. Quinlan; Bert G. Zipperer; Rick Cruz; Amanda L. Harrington; Charles E. McDowell; Donna V. Hurd and Benjamin M. Nerad

Absent: 1 -
Brian L. Solomon

Excused: 2 -
Katherine Cramer Walsh and Lisa B. Subeck

10. [19349](#) Amending Secs. 9.49 and 39.03 of the Madison General Ordinances to clarify judicial review and revise the Equal Opportunities Ordinance.

Attachments: [BODY registrations.10.5.10.pdf](#)

A concern was raised that there are three new Commissioners who were not on the Commission when these amendments were initially discussed. However, it was pointed out that Commissioners rotate on and off City Commissions/Committees/Boards as a part of the City's process, so whenever you have new Commissioners there will almost always be issues that have been discussed and researched prior to when the new member came on board. Following this discussion a motion was made to Recommend the Adoption of the proposed Ordinance amendments; so moved by Benford, seconded by Harrington.

There was a discussion on the motion wherein the suggested amendments were highlighted for the benefit of newer Commissioners. A discussion ensued regarding the definition of "citizenship status" and the Commission's role in this area.

Following discussion, the motion to Recommend passed.

Absent: 1 -
Brian L. Solomon

Excused: 2 -
Katherine Cramer Walsh and Lisa B. Subeck

Ayes: 9 -
Coco Bustamante; Brian Benford; John L. Quinlan; Bert G. Zipperer; Rick Cruz; Amanda L. Harrington; Charles E. McDowell; Donna V. Hurd and Nia Enemuoh-Trammell

Abstentions: 1 -
Benjamin M. Nerad

The 39.03 amendments should appear on the Common Council agenda for October 5, 2010. Staff will provide the Commission with an exact date.

Staff informed the Commission that an e-mail will be sent to the Commission with upcoming Common Council meetings and Board of Estimates meetings.

11. **Election of Second Alternate to EOC Executive Committee**

Enemuoh-Trammell asked for volunteers. She indicated that the Executive Committee is considering changing the dates of these meetings.

Harrington is interested but not available until after November.

12. [15741](#) INTRODUCTION OF FUTURE ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

An Ordinance requiring a three-week notice to a Commission/Committee/Board prior to an item it took action on coming before the Common Council was proposed: This item should go before the Executive Committee to craft language.

The proposed EOC policy for interacting with the media should also go before the Executive Committee.

13. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Cruz and seconded by Benford to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.