



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Approved EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION EMPLOYMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

Thursday, March 12, 2015

12:00 PM

Urban League of Greater Madison
2222 S. Park St., Madison, WI 53713

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting of the EOC Employment Subcommittee was called to order at 12:06 P.M. by Danielle Dieringer, Chair.

Voting members present: Vernon Blackwell, Danielle Dieringer, Jenny Wohlfert, Laura Zweber, Michele Thoren, David Witkowski, Cindy Schmelzer, Georgia Pride-Euler, Kira Stewart, Sean Saiz, and Margaret Leitingner (appeared by phone at 12:22 P.M.)

Non-voting members present: Karen Colwell, Lauren Andraski, Christina Shaughnessy, Mary Coddington, Kathy Hansen, Rochelle Wanner, and Bonita Platta

Staff present: Lucía Nuñez (Director, Dept. of Civil Rights) and Alyssa Riphon (Investigator/Conciliator)

Guests present: Alder Anita Weier (Common Council), Patrick Elliot (Freedom from Religion Foundation, Inc.), and Andrew Seidel (Freedom from Religion Foundation, Inc.)

Present: 10 - Laura J. Zweber; Kathy Hansen; Danielle A. Dieringer; Margaret Leitingner; Cynthia A. Schmelzer; Vernon E. Blackwell; Jenny Wohlfert; Michele Thoren; Georgia Pride Euler and David Witkowski

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cindy Schmelzer moved to approve the minutes of February 12, 2015. The motion was seconded by Jenny Wohlfert, and passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

There were no disclosures or recusals.

HOST OVERVIEW

On behalf of the Urban League of Greater Madison, Lauren Andraski provided the subcommittee with an overview of the organization. She explained the role and function of the organization in the community, specifically regarding employment and job-seekers.

Jenny Wohlfert moved to rearrange the agenda to place the “Reports” after the “Vetting”. The motion was seconded by Georgia Pride-Euler and passed by voice vote/other.

REPORTS

1. Chair Report

Danielle Dieringer reported to the subcommittee about last month’s full commission meeting and the future of the EOC Employment Subcommittee. For the time being, the subcommittee and full commission requested an increase in communication. Danielle Dieringer volunteered to attend the commission meetings and report back to the subcommittee each month.

2. Staff Report

Lucía Nuñez reported to the subcommittee about homeless protected class item before the full commission. Members of the committee requested the item be place on their April agenda for further consideration.

3. Commission Report

Sean Saiz, on behalf of the Equal Opportunities Commission, provided the subcommittee with an update regarding items before the commission.

INFORMATION SESSION

In representation of the Freedom from Religion Foundation, Inc., Patrick Elliot and Andrew Seidel provided the subcommittee with a presentation surrounding atheism. They described situations and examples in which atheists have been discriminated and explained reasons to support an atheism protected class.

After the presentation, members of the subcommittee held a question and answer session with Patrick Elliot and Andrew Seidel.

VETTING

Jenny Wohlfert moved to reconsider this item. The motion was seconded by David Witkowski. Roll call vote followed:

Yes: Danielle Dieringer, Margaret Leitingner, David Witkowski, Jenny Wohlfert, Laura Zweber

No: None

Abstain: Georgia Pride-Euler, Cindy Schmelzer, Michele Thoren, Vernon Blackwell

Motion carried.

Members of the committee discussed and compared the definitions of Atheism, Creed, and Religion.

Vernon Blackwell moved to recommend approval with a broader, non-religious inclusive language for the protected class. The motion was seconded by David Witkowski and passed by voice vote/other.

Abstention: Cindy Schmelzer and Geogia Pride-Euler.

FUTURE TOPICS FROM THE FLOOR

- Homeless protected class for April
- Strategic planning session for April
- Discussion about a change in time at the strategic planning meeting in April
- Young, Gifted and Black Coalition presentation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Lauren Andraski: Diversity Summit, Urban League of Greater Madison (May)

ADJOURNMENT

Cindy Schmelzer moved to adjourn the meeting. Jenny Wohlfert seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote/other.