



City of Madison

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

Thursday, April 12, 2018

5:00 PM

City County Building
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
1st Floor, Room 103A

**** Special Meeting - Retreat ****

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Staff present: Byron Bishop, Equal Opportunities Division Manager; Josue Peralta, Administrative Clerk

Others present: Karl Van Lith

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 P.M.

Present: 9 - Rebecca Kemble; Caitlin D. Badsing; Sheray L. Wallace; Melanie G. Ramey; Richelle R. Andrae; Arlette Kambwa-Gitau; Danielle A. Dieringer; Zach A. Madden and Corinda Rainey-Moore

Absent: 1 - Dion A. Jones

Excused: 1 - Charles E. McDowell

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Madden moved to approve the minutes from the March 8, 2018 meeting without correction. The motion was seconded by Ramey, and passed by voice vote.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

4. DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

There were no disclosures or recusals.

5. Welcome by Director Norman D. Davis & Round Robin Introductions

Department of Civil Rights Director Norman D. Davis began the retreat by welcoming the commissioners and voicing how much he appreciated the role they play. He outlined the Department's three objectives: 1) Ensure accountability, 2) Be proactive in making sure that individual's rights are not diminished, 3) "Affectively" or the ability to relate to the information we're sharing.

6. Discussion on Housing Issues in the City of Madison; Invitees

In the interest of time Commissioner Madden moved to move item 7 before item 6. The motion was seconded by Ramey, and passed via voice vote.

The Director of the Tenant Resource Center, Brenda Konkel, joined the commission and spoke to the Commission about the problems the center had been encountering. She noted that the two protected classes being hit the hardest were those related to Section 8 and homelessness. Heidi Weitgleitner also joined the commission and spoke about their partnership with the Neighborhood Law Clinic. She noted much progress could be made by changing some CDA policies. The commissioners had a discussion regarding these issues.

7. Roles, Powers & Duties of the Commission and its Commissioners

Equal Opportunities Division Manager Byron Bishop gave an overview of the legislative process, the Commission's and the individual commissioner's role, and the ways in which they can directly make an impact in the community.

8. Strategizing for Addressing Housing Issues, Year Goals

After some discussion, Commissioner Ramey motioned to begin working by studying CDA's policies and procedures to determine if there are any recommendations for change. The motion was seconded by Madden. Badsing proposed an amendment: to study three different areas in work groups. The groups are as follows:

- 1) CDA: Screening, evictions, interracial rules/policies, Section 8/City properties | Members: Dieringer, Madden, Ramey, Kambwa-Gitau, Andrae
- 2) Housing Stock: Current affordable stock, private landlord issues | Members: Badsing, Rainey-Moore, Jones
- 3) Role of MPD in Evictions: landlord relationship community policing team roles | Members: Kemble, Wallace, McDowell, Byron Bishop

The amendment was accepted and the motion passed via voice vote. Each work group is to meet at least once monthly between meetings and bring a report to the general Commission meeting.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Alder Rebecca Kemble moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 P.M. The motion was seconded by Dieringer and passed via voice vote.