



CITY HALL • 100 STATE STREET • BELOIT, WI 53511

MEETING MINUTES
BELOIT EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at 5:30 PM
The Forum, First Floor
Beloit City Hall, 100 State Street

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairperson Howland called the meeting to order at 5:32pm. Commissioners Mohorko, Howland, Perreault, Hansen, and Richard were present. Commissioner Weaver, Emery, and Councilor Dunkin were absent.

2. Approval of Minutes of the March 6, 2017 Special Meeting

Commissioner Perreault moved to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2017 meeting. Commissioner Mohorko seconded the motion. The motion passed, voice vote.

3. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

4. Review Fair Housing Materials

Ms. Teri Downing, Director of Community and Housing Services, presented the staff report and recommendation.

Ms. Downing noted that the previous name of the commission was present on the current brochure and no updates are possible due to the format of the document. Commissioner Perreault volunteered to attempt to update the brochure to reflect the current name.

Commissioner Howland inquired into how many copies are available and where they have been distributed. Ms. Downing explained that a previous intern, Hannah, compiled a list and distributed copies to the agencies on the list. Commissioner Howland suggested that the Commission decide at the workshop in May how to update the distribution list and deliver copies. Possible locations were discussed within the Commission. Ms. Downing also noted that there are Fair Housing resources for landlords, renters, and real estate agents.

Commissioner Perreault suggested the Commission obtain a map of the businesses in Beloit from the Chamber of Commerce. Commissioner Mohorko also recommended approaching Engineering.

Commissioner Howland asked if more of the documents would be available in Spanish. Ms. Downing explained that there are two staff members who are familiar with Spanish and are slowly working on translating documents. Commissioner Mohorko volunteered to assist with translation as well.



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5. Review and Approval of Action Plan

Commissioner Mohorko moved to approve the Action Plan. Commissioner Richard seconded the motion.

Commissioner Mohorko suggested adding radio stations to the list of resources for awareness.

Commissioner Howland explained his desire to branch out and explore further options besides Fair Housing. Commissioner Perreault and Hansen suggested that the Commission be wary of branching out too far in fear of stretching resources too thin and duplicating efforts already done. Commissioner Richard stated that since the Action Plan addresses discrimination related to Housing it does not venture too far from the mission of the Commission.

Commissioner Richard asked for clarification regarding creating a venue for landlord retaliation or abusive practices. Commissioner Howland suggested creating a network of resources as well as providing Commissioner's information on the City website.

Commissioner Richard recommended inviting specific organizations to attend EOC workshops.

Commissioner Hansen stated that the Code Enforcement program was in place as a resource for tenants. Ms. Downing explained that the recommendation was more of a resource for tenants who are evicted due to contacting Code Enforcement. There are tenants who are not aware that they cannot be evicted for contacting Code Enforcement.

Commissioner Perreault also noted that individuals can be directed to the Tenant Resource Center. Ms. Downing explained that there is a need for education for both tenants and landlords.

Commissioner Richard inquired how the Commission would obtain Housing Trends in Beloit. Commissioner Howland stated that he would be working with Teri Downing to obtain guidance and advice regarding that specific information.

Commissioner Mohorko addressed hosting a summer event. He recommended the Commission try to obtain booths at local agency events. Ms. Downing noted that poor race relations were a common theme in the listening sessions conducted in relation to the NRSA.

Commissioner Hansen noted that there is a lack of vacant properties available for rental. This particularly impacts Section 8 participants seeking housing.

Commissioner Richard asked if there were any ideas for subcommittees. Commissioner Howland stated he hoped to put together a list during a workshop. Commissioner Richard recommended Communication and Research as possible subcommittees.



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Commissioner Richard, Howland, and Ms. Downing discussed the workings of a workshop. Commissioner Richard requested that the next workshop be designed to invite specific organizations that serve individuals who are affected. Commissioner Mohorko cautioned that the Commission be well prepared before having a public workshop.

The action plan was adopted, voice vote.

6. Review and Approval of EOC Annual Strategy

Commissioner Howland stated that this agenda item will be addressed at the June meeting.

7. Determine Date for EOC Workshop in May

Commissioner Howland recommended May 20th at Bushel & Peck's. Mrs. Downing explained that previous case law has not ruled in the favor of Municipalities when holding public events in privately owned businesses. She furthered explained that a privately owned business can refuse service to any individual.

Commissioner Richard suggested a pavilion at Riverside Park. Commissioner Howland stated that he will contact Leisure Services regarding pavilion availability.

8. Review Requirements for Establishment of EOC Subcommittee(s) under Section 1.82(16)(d) of the City of Beloit Ordinances

- a) Determine Roles and Establish EOC Subcommittee(s)
- b) Appoint Chair(s) to Subcommittee(s)
- c) Appoint Secretary or Minute-taker for Subcommittee(s)

Ms. Downing explained the City Ordinance regarding Subcommittee(s). Commissioner Mohorko asked if members of a subcommittee would have to go through the Appointment Board and being sworn in. Ms. Downing will inquire and inform the Commission.

9. Update on Municipal ID Proposed by League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

Commissioner Howland stated that the LULAC will not be bringing anything forward in the near future. The League needs to perform further research regarding the Municipal IDs.

10. Commissioner Comments and Upcoming Events

Ms. Downing shared that HUD is accepting nominations for organizations and individuals for Fair Housing awards.

Commissioner Howland recommended the topic for the May meeting. Commissioner Mohorko provided the Commission with an updated email address (PRRebelKnight@gmail.com).



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11. Next Regular Meeting Date: June 21, 2017

The meeting will begin at 5:30 pm in the Forum

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ashley Rosenbaum