



CITY HALL • 100 STATE STREET • BELOIT, WI 53511

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**BELOIT EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION**

**Wednesday, August 16, 2017 at 5:30 PM**  
**The Forum, First Floor**  
**Beloit City Hall, 100 State Street**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 5:41pm. Commissioners Emery, Howland, Gross, Councilor Blakeley were present. Commissioners Richard, Weaver, Mohorko were absent. Due to requirements for a quorum, Councilor Blakeley will act as a voting member per City Ordinance 1.82(2)(C).

**2. Approval of Minutes of the April 19, 2017 Meeting**

Commissioner Emery moved to approve the minutes from the April 19, 2017 meeting. Commissioner Blakeley seconded the motion. The motion passed, Commissioner Gross abstained from the vote.

**3. Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present. Commissioner Howland stated that the Commission would actively be finding new ways to invite the public to meetings.

**4. Nomination and election of Officers**

**a) Nomination and Election of Chairperson**

Commissioner Emery nominated Commissioner Howland. Commissioner Gross seconded the motion. The motion passed, voice vote.

**b) Nomination and Election of Vice-Chairperson**

Commissioner Emery nominated Commissioner Richard. Commissioner Blakeley seconded the motion. The motion passed, voice vote.

**5. Review of May 20, 2017 Workshop Activities and No Quorum at June 21 Meeting**

Councilor Blakeley asked Commissioner Howland to summarize a new organization in Beloit called Switch Lanes. Commissioner Howland provided a flyer for an event (Peace in the Streets) that is being planned at 11am on Sunday, August 20, 2017. Mrs. Downing, Director of Housing Services, stated that she will post a notice that there may a quorum of EOC committee members present at the event.

**6. Review and Approval of New EOC Documents for Community Outreach**

Commissioner Emery moved to approve the documents. Commissioner Gross seconded the motion.



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Commissioner Gross stated that she supported the documents and would be providing them to the families being serviced at her place of employment. Mrs. Downing inquired how the Commission would like to have the documents printed. Commissioner Howland asked Mrs. Downing to print copies, place the documents on the city website, and also stated that he would make copies. Councilor Blakeley offered her services as a semi-retired professional writer to reorganize the brochures.

Commissioner Emery suggested that the Commission reach out to the communities being served to possibly translate and assist with the documents. Mrs. Downing recommended working with Latino Service Providers as well. Councilor Blakeley volunteered to contact the Public Library Director to establish a relationship between the Commission and the library.

Commissioner Emery noted that the charter of the Equal Opportunities Commission is not limited to solely working towards ending racism, but also sex, color, sexual orientation, handicap, religion, national origin, familial status, sex or marital status of the person maintaining a household, lawful source of income, and age or ancestry. As such, the efforts of the commission should encompass all of those aspects.

Mrs. Downing clarified what the Commission desired for the proposed survey. The Commission discussed the most practical manner to request survey answers. It was discussed to create an online survey and post it on the City of Beloit's website.

Commissioner Emery requested that the City's website be updated with the new goals of the Equal Opportunities Commission.

The motion passed, voice vote.

#### **7. Determine EOC Workshop Date and Time for September**

The intention of the informal workshop sessions is to connect with the community regarding impediments in the City during the months in which the EOC does not meet.

Councilor Blakeley suggested a workshop regarding the national uproar regarding the Neo-Nazi movement.

Commissioner Emery requested listening sessions to determine what the individual sub-communities want to see in Beloit. He suggested connecting with the NAACP, the high school, and local churches. Commissioner Emery also stated he wants to talk to the members of the organizations, not necessarily the leaders of the organizations. Mrs. Downing also recommended having a box for anonymous comments at events.

Councilor Blakeley stated that she would contact the NAACP. Commissioner Howland volunteered to contact the health system. Commissioner Emery stated that he would be willing to contact the League of United Latin American Citizens. Commissioner Howland stated that (as a result of previous conversations with the principals of both Hackett and Merrill Elementary Schools) there is also a need to discuss mental health resources



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directly in the schools. Councilor Blakeley also suggested contacting groups regarding sexual orientation discrimination. Mrs. Downing stated that Commissioner Richard may be able to contact the group on the Beloit College campus. Councilor Blakeley also volunteered to address the topic during a City Council meeting.

**8. Determine Regular EOC Meeting Time**

Councilor Blakeley moved to change the meeting time to 5:30pm. Commissioner Gross seconded the motion. The motion passed, voice vote.

**9. Commissioner Comments and Upcoming Events**

Commissioner Emery proposed that the EOC publicly and adamantly announce the opposition to Neo-Nazis and any other similar hate groups. He also requested that the City Council do the same.

Commissioner Howland volunteered to contact Kevin Leavy (and alert City Manager Luther) in regards to adding an item to the next City Council meeting.

Commissioner Howland called for a sense of the Commission regarding the opposition to Neo-Nazi's and similar hate groups. All of the members were in favor. Mrs. Downing asked if the Commission would be publishing a public notice. Commissioner Howland stated that the Commission would be contacting the local newspapers.

Councilor Blakeley recommended contacting Regina Dunkin, who serves in a public relations position, for the Beloit Health System. She also requested further information regarding the rally that is planned this coming weekend.

Commissioner Howland stated that it is being hosted by "Beloit Together" at Horace White Park at 4pm on Saturday. The purpose of the event is to address the events that occurred in Charlottesville, SC.

Mrs. Downing stated that Community Action has recently purchased the Merrill Center and they may be willing to have members of the EOC address the community.

The Commission welcomed the newest committee member, Dawn Gross.

**10. Next Regular Meeting Date: October 18, 2017**

**11. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ashley Rosenbaum.