

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**BELOIT EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION**  
**Wednesday, April 18, 2018 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 5:35pm. Commissioners Howland, Gross, Richard, Miller, and Councilor Blakeley were present. Commissioner Mohorko was absent.
2. Approval of Minutes of the March 21, 2018 Special Meeting  
Commissioner Gross moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Richard seconded the motion. The motion passed, voice vote.
3. Public Participation  
There were no members of the public wishing to participate.
4. Review of Recent Outreach Activities and Consideration of Future Activities, including May EOC Workshop

Chairperson Howland mentioned a recent article in the Beloit Daily News about the Equal Opportunities Commission and the work that the Commission plans on doing. Councilor Blakeley expressed her praise for the “What Does Home Mean to You?” project and all of the quick work that went into collecting the projects. The commission discussed the McKinney-Vento Act and how it affects students without a permanent home.

Commissioner Miller suggested that the Commission use the artwork submitted for the “What Does Home Mean to You?” project as a springboard for the Beloit Poverty and Equity subcommittee. Commissioner Howland recommended speaking with Robin Stuht, the homeless liaison for the Beloit School District, for more information about the homeless youth in Beloit. Commissioner Richard asked if the Beloit City Council could recognize the work Robin Stuht has done for the homeless youth.

The commission discussed how to recognize July as the Beloit Homeless Awareness Month. Director Downing explained the process to move forward with this concept. Commissioner Miller suggested utilizing ACES.

Commissioner Howland suggested hosting a workshop on Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 5pm in regards to how to move forward with the theme of homelessness in the City of Beloit. He mentioned the fact that homelessness can be forgotten about when the weather is warm enough to sleep outside. Commissioner Howland said that he will compose an agenda for the workshop and share it with the commission. Commissioner Richard

suggested that the EOC invite members of the public to discuss what leads to homelessness. The Commission discusses challenges to inviting families to events. Commissioner Miller recommended a partnership with Blackhawk Tech to develop child friendly programming so that adults could have adult time. The Commission discussed hosting the workshop at the Beloit Public Library.

Commissioner Richard mentioned that she met previously with Andrew Janke regarding hiring practices in the Gateway. She asked that the Equal Opportunities Commission request Mr. Janke to complete a full report on the hiring practices. Councilor Blakeley recommended that the Equal Opportunities Commission address Councilor Leavy before talking to Mr. Janke. She stated that Councilor Leavy has been dedicated to fighting to lower any racial barriers in the City.

5. Review and Approval of New EOC Subcommittees
  - a) Latino Outreach
  - b) Beloit Poverty and Equity

Commissioner Howland explained the process of forming subcommittees and the aim behind the suggested subcommittees. Commissioner Richard moved to form the two subcommittees. Commissioner Gross seconded the motion. Councilor Blakeley asked if there were enough man power to form these subcommittees. Commissioner Howland explained that the EOC would be trying to recruit members of the public to engage. It was discussed that the subcommittees would need to follow the same rules as the EOC. Commissioner Richard asked if the EOC would be able to set priorities for the subcommittees. Commissioner Miller explained how the Commission could gather measurable data. Commissioner Howland stated that subcommittees are generally only formed for six months at a time but that they EOC could renew the subcommittees at any time. The motion passed, voice vote.

6. Commissioner Comments and Upcoming Events

Commissioner Miller suggested proposing a program to work with the businesses in Beloit in regards to their hiring practices. The program would be completely voluntary and businesses would self-evaluate themselves. The end goal would be for the business to be acknowledged as a member of the (fair hiring) consortium.

Commissioner Howland shared the Official Proclamation of April as Fair Housing Month that was passed at the City Council meeting on April 16, 2018. He also discussed the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr in 1968 and what happened afterwards.

Commissioner Howland mentioned the Stand Against Racism event on Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at noon on Riverside Park in Beloit and the Rock County Courthouse at 51 S Main St.

7. Next Regular Meeting Date: June 20, 2018

8. Adjournment

Commissioner Richard moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Gross seconded. The motion passed, voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.