



CITY HALL • 100 STATE STREET • BELOIT, WI 53511

MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA
BELOIT EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION
(Special Meeting)

Monday, March 6, 2017 at 5:30 PM

The Forum Conference Room, First Floor
Beloit City Hall, 100 State Street

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 5:35PM by Vice Chair, Joe Hansen. Commissioners Hansen, Richard, Emery, and Dunkin were present. Chair Howland appeared by phone conference. Commissioner Perreault was excused. Commissioners Weaver and Mohorko were absent.

2. Approval of Minutes of the February 15, 2017 Meeting

Commissioner Emery moved to approve the minutes from the August 17, 2016 meeting. Commissioner Richard seconded the motion. The motion carried.

3. Discussion of Municipal ID Petition from League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

Chair Howland indicated

Sharon Alcala VP from LULAC spoke. She explained that they presented a petition to the City Council for Municipal IDs. The IDs would be for identification purposes only and would not be valid for driving or voting.

Ms. Alcala indicated that the IDs would be used by the Police Department to identify people when necessary, the library to obtain library cards, pharmacies to obtain prescription medication, banks for opening/interaction with bank accounts. Commissioners asked whether LULAC had approached the agencies to determine whether they would accept an ID such as the one proposed. Ms. Alcala indicated they had not. Commissioner Emery suggested they do this before coming back to EOC or Council because the City would not want to implement a costly program for IDs if agencies would not even accept the IDs for the purposes they propose.

Discussion followed regarding whether the address would or should be on the ID card. LULAC expressed concerns that if the address appeared on the card and the City had a database with everyone's addresses that this listing and addresses would be subject to open records requests. The Commissioners indicated that having the address would be



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important because if the City is expending funds to provide IDs they would want to provide it to residents of the City and not open it to everyone. Commissioner Richards suggested that LULAC research ID programs already in place in WI and use successful programs as a guide to recommend a program in Beloit.

Melissa Beetstra, a Dual Language Immersion (DLI) teacher at Robinson Elementary School about the climate of fear among Latino students at the school. She said that test scores among Latino students have gone backwards since November. She explained that with the current political atmosphere there is a real fear among parents and teachers at the school. She suggested that LULAC and the EOC provide public education and information about rights regarding ICE.

Commissioner Emery asked whether there have been incidents in Beloit of deportations and whether there is legal support in the community. Ms. Beetstra said there have been where parents have been deported because the children are citizens because they were born here but the parents are not. She said there is some legal support but it is not adequate. Ms. Beetstra explained that she understands that the Beloit Police Department made a statement indicating they would not proactively report illegal immigrants, but if the federal government requests assistance, they must assist.

4. Public Participation

Kurt Reynolds of 612 Milwaukee Road spoke. He asked whether having the municipal ID would really change anything. He asked who will be responsible for issuing the IDs and who would pay for it. He said he would be supportive of a State ID but asked why the City should be doing this. He said that banks need an ID and Social Security card from its patrons in order to pay taxes and that the Beloit Public Library needs an ID with an address in order to check residency. He said he just doesn't understand how having a municipal ID would resolve anything.

Deb Fallon of 1232 Elm Street spoke. She said that her understanding is that people can get an ID form their Matrícula, which is issued by the Mexican Consulate, in English and with that people can get their prescriptions.

Joel Ramiro of 1827 Shopiere Road spoke. He explained that even if someone wants to return an item of merchandise to a store people must show an ID. Commissioner Hansen said that having just a name and birthdate may not be enough information and that LULAC must approach stores to see whether they will take IDs with such limited information.

Ms. Alcalá of LULAC said that perhaps an approach could be to educate institutions on the Matrícula.

Commissioner Emery indicated that the EOC is interested in this program and would like LULAC to come back to EOC with further information. Ms. Alcalá indicated that she can the research suggested and come back to the next EOC meeting.



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5. Discussion and Approval of EOC Annual Strategy

Chairperson Howland indicated that he would like to see the scope of the EOC in the Strategy broadened. He said he would provide a draft of the expanded wording via email to the Commission and the members for comments. Commissioners are to respond only to Howland as no discussion can occur outside of a publicly noticed meeting.

He said he would also like to add a strategy on ways to increase visibility and develop channels other agencies and organizations such as LULAC, the School District, Faith Based organizations, etc. Another strategy should be to create a venue for retaliation from landlords, investigate redlining, and analyze housing trends in Beloit. He would also like to develop more workshops.

Chairperson Howland also expressed that the Commission get serious about item G in the Strategy that indicates the Commission will assign volunteers, Commission Members, and staff to carry out activities to fulfill the goals of the Strategy.

Commissioner Emery suggested that these items may be more suitable for a Strategic Plan rather than the current document.

6. Discussion of Fair Housing Month – April

Chairperson Howland informed the Commission that he will be accepting a Fair Housing Proclamation at the April 3 City Council Meeting on behalf of the EOC. He explained that he will announce during his acceptance comments that the EOC plans to broaden the scope of their activities that they will be examining redlining in the community.

He asked whether the Commission would like to do any other activities for Fair Housing month. A suggestion was made to invite banks to the EOC to explain their foreclosure processes and decisions for not taking some properties at Sheriff's sale.

7. Determine Next Meeting Date

Chair Howland announced the next meeting date will be the regularly scheduled date of April 19, 2017 at 5:30PM.

8. Adjournment

Commissioner Emery moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10PM.