

MEETING MINUTES
BELOIT EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION

Wednesday, June 20, 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 5:32pm. Commissioners Howland, Mohorko, Gross, and Councilor Blakeley were present. Commissioner Miller arrived at 5:35pm.

2) Approval of Minutes of the April 18, 2018 Special Meeting

Commissioner Mohorko moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Gross seconded the motion. Motion approved, voice vote.

3) Public Participation

There were no members of the public present who wished to participate.

4) Nomination of Vice-Chairperson

Councilor Blakeley recommended Commissioner Gross. Commissioner Mohorko nominated Commissioner Gross. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed, voice vote.

5) Report on Rock County Race to Equity by Vicki Brown, YWCA and Rock County Supervisor

Commissioner Howland summarized the information collected at the workshop in May. Ms. Brown summarized the Race to Equity project. She explained the goals and steps moving forward to obtain the information needed.

Commissioner Miller inquired whether the YWCA had reached out to businesses. Ms. Brown stated that they had reached out in the past but need to follow up. Commissioner Miller also asked if it would be possible to separate Beloit specific data from the rest of Rock County. Ms. Brown stated that is a question that will need to be directed to the Kids Forward group as they are the ones actually doing the “number crunching.”

Commissioner Mohorko questioned the name of the project. Ms. Brown explained that the board chose the name. Commissioner Mohorko pointed out a semantic/grammatical error on the Spanish page. He followed up questioning racism is being addressed in schools. Ms. Brown stated that children need to be exposed to people who are different than them. Commissioner Miller shared a personal story relating to how parents can empower their children by exposing, explaining, and teaching differences. Ms. Brown stated, “Talking about race is like a muscle that’s stronger the more you do it.”

Ms. Downing asked if the YWCA, in addition to advocacy and awareness, was also reporting back to the Kids Forward group.

Commissioner Gross asked who will be analyzing the information collected and determining the goals moving forward to address racial concerns. Ms. Brown stated that people were needed to volunteer to perform those very things. Interested parties can contact Kids Forward.

Commissioner Miller asked if it would be appropriate if the EOC brings awareness to the project. Ms. Brown said she would need to speak with her connection with Kids Forward. Ms. Downing suggested that Ms. Brown present the PowerPoint in front of the City Council as part of the City Manager's report.

Commissioner Miller recommended that Ms. Brown reach out to the Stateline Literacy for Life program. It is a collaborative between businesses and faith groups to improve early literacy.

6) Discussion of Homeless Awareness Month in the City of Beloit

Commissioner Howland recommended that November, instead of July, is recognized as Homeless Awareness Month. Commissioner Miller asked if in place of doing another proclamation or resolution, the EOC hosts an event that will draw attention an existing activity. The Point in Time count that is performed twice a year was suggested. Commissioner Miller suggested doing an event the weekend of July 13-15, 2018 that is connected to the Point in Time event. Commissioner Miller volunteered to draft a flyer for the proposed workshop.

7) Review of Recent Outreach Activities and Consideration of Future Activities, including July EOC Workshop

Workshop relating to homelessness was recommended.

8) Review of New EOC Subcommittees

- a) Latino Outreach
 - i) Outreach is ongoing
- b) Beloit Poverty and Equity
 - i) Presentation by Vicki Brown of "Rock County Race to Equity"

9) Update on Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Process

There were no comments at this time.

10) Commissioner Comments and Upcoming Events

Commissioner Miller brought forward some recommendations for future commission topics that she had received from community groups:

- a) Juneteenth being recognized as a holiday
- b) June being recognized as National Pride Month
- c) Beloit College/Yellow Brick Road "Beloit Inclusive"



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- i. Local businesses self-assess. Receive a sticker for window. Steps for following up on any complaints.
- d) Community group to work on Beloit Inclusive project

There is a Strategic Planning Meeting (open to the public) on July 14, 2018.

There will be another session of Courageous Conversations on June 25, 2018 at the Merrill Center at 5:30pm.

Beloit Together is hosting a rally relating to the Separation of Families issue on Saturday, June 23, 2018 at 1pm at Horace White Park. There will be three speakers.

11) Next Regular Meeting Date: August 15, 2018

The Chair announced the date of the next regular meeting of the EOC.

12) Adjournment

Commissioner Mohorko moved to adjourn. Commissioner Gross seconded. The motion passed, voice vote. The meeting adjourned at pm.