



EQUITY AND EMPOWERMENT COMMISSION

Thursday, April 18, 2019, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, Room 2402

Present: J. Corbier de Lara, D. Holmes, M. Wynne, A. Ibanez, M. Vela (departed at 6:50 p.m.), J. Grover

Absent: T. Eberhart, M. Dillard, K. Lyons

Staff: K. Richardson, P. Martinez

Others Present: Ald. Rue Simmons, Ald. Fleming

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order/Declaration of a quorum**

6:38 p.m.

2. **Approval of meeting minutes of March 21, 2019**

Wynne/Holmes

3. **Public comment**

Ms. Doreen Price spoke about divisive and misleading titles/headlines in the media.

4. **Recognition of Mario Vela's Service**

Chair Grover presented a certificate of appreciation to Mr. Mario Vela for his service to the commission.

5. **For Discussion**

a. Reconciliation and Reparations

Chair Grover stated that she was inspired to explore the reconciliation topic by the YWCA. She asked the Commission who should be included in the conversation, who should lead it, etc.

Holmes said she asked the Mayor to start with conversation before the reconciliation process starts.

Ald. Simmons mentioned her referral is more about local reparations. There is a big need given the wealth and opportunity gap. She wants to concentrate in policy that repairs the wrongs Black families in Evanston have experienced throughout the years, for example, free access to NU and Oakton to academically qualified students.

She has asked Clerk Reid to create a report of historically divisive and excluding policies. She wants to concentrate on creating policies that uplifts families, instead of policies that perpetuate poverty.

She asked the commission for feedback and wanted to know if they have discussed this before, and if they can take this task on.

D. Holmes said she brought it up in February, the topic of truth and reconciliation. She said she agrees w/ Simmons, but that D202 and D65 need to be brought to the table. She said she is willing to work on this.

Education, zoning, economic development

M. Wynne agreed that conversations are needed.

Ald. Fleming said she is working on a resolution that recognizes all the historic wrong the City has done, as a way to start the healing process. She also welcomes Ald. Rue Simmons work.

D. Holmes said there are easy examples that can be implemented right away, i.e. Housing Authority.

M. Wynne supported reparations, conversations, and resolution.

Chair Grover recommended to add an apology to the resolution. J. Corbier de Lara and M. Wynne mentioned adding an apology might be a harder sell.

Chair Grover said the commission agrees to the substance of the resolution as stated.

Chair Grover suggested recording stories of hurt.

Redlining exhibit should be in Evanston

Ald. Fleming to bring a second draft of the resolution to the commission to their next meeting.

b. Revised Draft Equity Framework

Ms. Richardson explained she is working with a group of staff to review social services from an equitable perspective, and using POP (Purpose Outcome Process).

She said that this process is aiming to target structural and institutional racism.

She said we need to engage the community.

Comm. Ibanez asked how commission members fit in the work. What is their role? Exercises, readings, to have a common language, and then collaborate with the POP process and engage the community. The main goal should be to operationalize equity.

c. Revised Community Engagement Strategy

6. Items for communication

7. Staff Reports

- a. Language Access Policy Update
 - b. Rules Committee in June
 - c. Garrett Theological Community Gathering
 - d. YWCA Equity Summit
- K. Richardson share the state of equity in Evanston report

8. Adjournment

Adjourned a 8:54 p.m.