



## **EQUITY AND EMPOWERMENT COMMISSION MEETING**

**Thursday, December 19, 2019**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Lorraine Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, Parasol Room**

### **Minutes**

**Present:** Chair Jane Grover, Vice Chair Monté Dillard, Alejandra Ibañez, Delores Holmes, and Ald. Melissa Wynne

**Absent:** Julie Corbier de Lara, Kathy Lyons, Max Weinberg, and Timothy Eberhart

**Staff Present:** Kimberly Richardson, Deputy City Manager

**Others Present:** 3 guests and Eileen Heineman, YWCA

#### **1. Call to Order/Declaration of Quorum**

The meeting called to order by Chair Grover at 7.05 p.m., and a quorum declared. Chair Grover announced the resignation of Commissioner Julie Corbier de Lara. Ms. Richardson will work with the Mayor to appoint a new member by February.

#### **2. Approval of September 17, 2019, Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Holmes moved to approve the September 17, 2019 meeting minutes; Alderman Wynne seconded; minutes approved.

#### **3. Public Comment**

No public comment.

#### **4. For Discussion**

##### **a. 2020: Mission and Focus**

The discussion was held for a later date. However, the members of the Commission requested the February agenda to include an update from Ms. Richardson regarding the city implementation of equity tools, Commission retreat, and nomination of Officers.

##### **b. Evanston Truth Update**

Evanston Truth's working group will meet to discuss the next steps for how to engage the Evanston community in a process to learn, discover, reveal Evanston's truths to support racial healing, and achieve racial equity.

Heineman, YWCA Equity Institute Manager, informed the Commission of the upcoming National Day of Racial Healing on January 21, 2020. The Equity and Empowerment Commission moved to support the event. The Commission directed staff to work with the Mayor's Office on proclamation for the day and work to promote that event on the City calendar.

**C. Environmental Justice Ordinance and Joint Meeting**

The Commission agreed to have a joint meeting with the Environment Board on February 20, 2020, to review the draft Environmental Justice ordinance. Ms. Richardson will work with the staff to arrange the meeting and have a draft copy of the ordinance for the Commissioners to review before the February meeting.

**5. For Consideration**

**a. 2020 Meeting Schedule**

Holmes moved to approve the 2020 Commission meeting schedule; Alderman Wynne seconded; 2020 meeting schedule approved.

**6. Communications**

No communications.

**7. Reports**

**a. Reparations Townhall**

Vice-Chair Dillard provided an update of the Reparations Townhall held on December 10, 2019, at the First Church of God Christian Life Center. Over 800 people attended the event. Speakers included Dino Robinson, former Alderman Lionel Jean-Baptiste, Alderman Robin Simmons, and keynote speaker actor Danny Glover. The Commission is looking to see the next steps laid out by the Reparations Subcommittee and what will be the Commission's role. Ms. Richardson will update the Commission at the next meeting on the Reparations Subcommittee activities.

**8. Executive Session**

No executive session.

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.