



Equity and Empowerment Commission
Thursday, February 20, 2020
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, Room 4802
7:30 PM

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. [Approval of the January 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes](#)

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

5. CONSIDERATION

A. Nomination of the Officers (Chair and Vice-Chair)

6. REPORTS

A. [Evanston Truth Working Group](#)

7. COMMUNICATION

8. ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting:
Thursday, March 19, 2020, 6:30 p.m.



EQUITY AND EMPOWERMENT COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, January 16, 2020

6:30 p.m.

Lorraine Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, Room 2404

Minutes

Present: Chair Jane Grover, Vice Chair Monté Dillard, Alejandra Ibañez, Delores Holmes, Kathy Lyons, Max Weinberg, and Timothy Eberhart and Ald. Melissa Wynne

Absent:

Staff Present: Kimberly Richardson, Deputy City Manager; Shenicka Hohenkirk, ICMA Fellow

Others Present: 15 guests and Eileen Heineman, YWCA

1. Call to Order/Declaration of Quorum

The meeting called to order by Chair Grover at 6:35 p.m., and a quorum declared.

2. Approval of December 19, 2019, Meeting Minutes

Alderman Wynne moved to approve the December 19, 2019 meeting minutes; Commissioner Holmes seconded; minutes approved.

3. Public Comment

A resident spoke in support of the Environmental Justice ordinance.

A resident spoke in looking forward to a joint effort with the Equity and Empowerment Commission and the Reparations Subcommittee.

4. For Discussion

a. Equity and Empowerment Commission Retreat

Chair Grover suggested having a retreat in Fall 2020. She requested the commissioners to provide topics ideas for agenda consideration.

b. Environmental Justice Ordinance

Commissioner Eberhart presented an overview of the work done so far by the Environment Justice group, which lead to staff preparation of the Environmental Justice resolution. Ms. Richardson reviewed the staff prepared memo, which outlines language that will be included within the resolution. Commissioners'

feedback to staff includes having definitions, a community engagement strategy, and includes “inclusive” language within the resolution. Staff will have draft resolution ready for Commission review before the joint meeting on February 20 with the Environment Board.

5. For Consideration

a. Nomination of Officers (Chair/Vice-Chair)

Chair Grover held item until next meeting.

6. Communications

a. Community Engagement

Chair Grover provided the Commission with a community engagement principles and recommendations report by Elevated Chicago.

b. National Day of Racial Healing

National Day of Racial Healing circles will be held the week of January 20, 2020 which will be held several locations within the City of Evanston including two dates at the Morton Civic Center.

7. Reports

a. City's Equity Implementation

Ms. Richardson stated the next steps of the City's equity efforts.

b. Evanston Truth Working Group

Eileen Heineman was named the Group's leader and will report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

c. Reparations Subcommittee Meeting Update

Ms. Richardson provided the Reparations Subcommittee meeting schedule.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Evanston Truth Ongoing Notes (February 2020)

Goal: Engage the Evanston community in a process to learn/discover/reveal Evanston's truths to support racial healing and achieve racial equity.

- **What**
 - Mayoral invitation/exhortation (City Council resolution)
- **Why** [need to articulate]
 - Evanston history, events
 - June 10, 2019: City Council resolution on “Commitment to End Structural Racism and Achieve Racial Equity”
 - Solutions Only/Reparations
 - Commission committee meetings, recommendation
 - City Council resolution/fund
 - December 11, 2019: Evanston Reparations Initiative Townhall, First Church of God Christian Life Center
 - Undesign the Redline Exhibit
 - YWCA events
 - Second Baptist Church/Lake Street Church events
 - Uncomfortable Journey Evanston
 - Guidelines [to be developed]
 - Resources
 - City
 - webpage
 - newsletter, social media
 - events/opportunities/calendar
 - guidelines
 - Hosts/facilitators
 - YWCA, other professionals
 - Participants in Beyond Diversity training
 - Venues
 - Gibbs-Morrison Cultural Center, recording studio
 - Funding
 - Kellogg Foundation
 - Local
 - Woods Fund
 - Inquire: Professor Al Tillery

- Activities
 - Facilitated conversations, workshops, townhall meetings
 - Urban Consulate, Courageous Conversations
(<http://www.urbanconsulate.com/chicago>)
 - Healing circles
 - Record stories ([Story Corps](#))
 - Exhibits
 - Pledge (similar to healthy work environment)
- **Who**
 - Advocates and allies
 - Participants in “Solutions Only” reparations meetings (email list)
 - Participants in bus trip to Montgomery, AL, Beyond Diversity trainings
 - Participants in Beyond Diversity trainings
 - Community institutions
 - School districts, student organizations
 - YWCA
 - YMCA / Equity Institute
 - Evanston Community Foundation
 - Shorefront Legacy Center
 - Evanston Own It
 - Northwestern University
 - Other organizations
 - Private sector
 - Public sector
 - City of Evanston
 - School Districts 65 and School District 202
- **When: ongoing**
- **Questions**
 - Need steering committee?
 - Community engagement for design, planning?