



## Equity and Empowerment Commission Meeting

Thursday, October 15, 2020

6:30 p.m.

Zoom Virtual Meeting

### Minutes

**Present:** Chair Jane Grover, Co-Chair Alejandra Ibanez, Delores Holmes, Ald. Melissa Wynne, Kathy Lyons, Max Weinberg, Kymberly Walton, and Karla Thomas

**Staff Present:** Kimberly Richardson, Interim Assistant City Manager; Shenicka Hohenkirk, ICMA Management Fellow

**1. Called 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 the September 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Alderman Wynne moved to approve the September 17, 2020 meeting minutes; Kathy Lyons seconded; minutes approved.

**3. Public Comment**

**Evanston Residents:** Bill Smith, Sean, Allie Harned, Christine Escobar and Jersey Shabazz

**4. For Discussion**

**a. Retreat Preparation**

Chair Jane Grover began the conversation for the preparation of the Equity and Empowerment retreat. The sole objective for the retreat will be to identify the purpose and the outcomes of the mission of the Equity and Empowerment Commission.

**Discussion of specific outcomes the commission members hope to get out of the retreat:**

- **Co-Chair Alejandra Ibanez** spoke on having clarity on the commission's role, power and purpose as the commission plows through the equity work needed in Evanston. Expecting the retreat to help the group develop strategic planning for the future work of the commission. What is the role of the EEC as it pertains to the internal and external engagements of Evanston? And how do we identify those steps?
- **Karla Thomas** mentioned the significance of the EEC ordinance and the mission statement and the importance of the work of this commission.
- **Kymberly Walton** desired clarity on what is on the agenda of the commissioners and do all commissioners have the power to put things on the

agenda for the commission as a whole? Definitely, discussing more of what the commission's purpose is and listening to the ideas and thoughts of every member of the EEC.

- **Delores Holmes** referenced that the commission needs to find a way to come back to the mission statement as being the purpose behind why the EEC exists. The expectation for the retreat would be to help the commission with some sense of direction to empower the equity work in Evanston internally and externally.
- **Max Weinberg** being able to deal with real issues of the community like racism, socioeconomic differences and providing some form of resources to those who lack extensively. Bridging the gap between the community and the commission and allowing for more community members to be a part of the work the EEC is trying to accomplish. How the EEC can do more work around the homeless population?
- **Ald. Wynne** shed light on how broad the purpose statement is for the EEC and brings some form of narrowness to the purpose of the work that the EEC needs to be doing. There needs to be some coordination amongst the commission members and making sure everyone is somewhat on the same page. What are the most pressing issue(s) that the EEC needs to address?
- **Kathy Lyons** the commission has evolved a bit within the community engagement since the commission began four year ago, however, there still needs to be some sense of direction on how to maintain and add to the community engagement.

Dr. Kathleen Yang-Clayton will facilitate the EEC retreat in order to help the commission craft a mission and purpose that can redirect the equity work of the commission. An agenda will be drafted to make sure all the feedback of the commission members can be addressed.

**b. Evanston Truth Working Group Update**

There has not been a meeting since the last time the group met early Fall. There will be an update on where the working group's progress is during the next EEC meeting.

**5. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.