



## **Equity and Empowerment Commission Meeting**

**Thursday, March 18, 2021**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Zoom Virtual Meeting**

### **Minutes**

**Present:** Chair Jane Grover, Vice Chair Alejandra Ibáñez, Commissioner Delores Holmes, Ald. Melissa Wynne, Commissioner Kathy Lyons, Commissioner Karla Thomas, Commissioner Kymberly Walton and Commissioner Max Weinberg

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

**1. Called to order/Declaration of Quorum:**

Vice Chair Alejandra Ibanez called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and declared a quorum.

**2. Approval of the February 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Delores Holmes moved to approve the February 18, 2021 meeting minutes; Vice Chair Alejandra Ibanez seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

**3. Public Comment**

No Public Comment

**4. For Discussion**

**a. Equity in the Arts Working Group Update**

- Chair of the Evanston Arts Council, Toby Sachs, presented an update on what the Equity in the Arts working group has done so far to tackle equity in their work, agenda and operations.
- The Equity in the Arts Working Group meets every month, took anti-racism trainings, and focused on re-imagining the Cultural Fund Grant.
- Next steps for the Working Group are to bring the equity work into the body of the full Arts Council and working to meet input on the public art to honor the Black experience in Evanston.

- Vice Chair Alejandra Ibanez, advised to have the Working Group led the Arts Council with incorporating equity work into the Arts Council.
- Commissioner Kymberly Walton suggested having a direct partnership with the aldermen and the residents in the wards to help with the community engagement around the Black experience in Evanston.
- Commissioner Karla Thomas asked a question regarding the outreach of getting to the marginalized population in order to get more support and funding. Toby will work on reaching out to that population for next year's guidelines in order to include all populations in Evanston.

**b. Update on Boards, Commissions and Committees Project**

- Vice Chair Ibanez spoke about one of the goals for this project is for the boards, commissions and committees to go through a uniformed training and have a shared language.
- The next steps for this project will be to develop a training program and finding funding for trainings for the boards, commissions and committees.
- Vice Chair Ibanez also mentioned that a group of the commissioners will discuss with staff how to identify which institutions will provide that foundational racial equity training to be offered to BCCs and City Council.
- Interim Assistant City Manager Kimberly Richardson has suggested that there is more internal work to be done with the responses that were given from the surveys. Possibly developing a pilot that will begin the equity work and trainings for BCCs.
- Commissioner Walton suggested that the language of the expected commitment to be on any boards, commissions and committees should be laid out plainly in applications as well as on the website.
- Eileen Heineman highlighted that some municipalities offer one or two commission/committee members to go through some equity trainings.

**c. Confirmation of the New Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission and Goal Setting**

- Action item was held until the April meeting due to no quorum.
- Goal setting and Council realignment 2021-2023 has been held until the April meeting due to no quorum.

**5. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned unanimously and no vote due to no quorum.