



## Equity and Empowerment Commission Meeting

Thursday, September 16, 2021  
6:30 p.m.  
Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Ave, VIRTUAL

### Minutes

**Present:** Chair Alejandra Ibáñez, Vice Chair Karla Thomas, Council Member Reid, Commissioner Jane Grover, Commissioner Kymberly Walton

**Absent:** Council Member Fleming

**Staff Present:** 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 July 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Jane Grover moved to amend the July 15, 2021 meeting minutes to reflect “Thursday, July 15, 2021” as the corrected meeting date on the agenda, Council member Reid seconded that amendment; Commissioner Grover then moved to approve the July 15, 2021 meeting minutes as amended, Council Member Reid seconded; Minutes approved unanimously.

**3. Public Comment**

No Public Comment

**4. For Discussion**

**a. Update of Ordinance 85-O-17, “Equity and Empowerment Commission”**

- Chair Alejandra Ibanez led the discussion on the need of reviewing and updating the enabling ordinance to clarify the roles, authority and membership of the Equity and Empowerment Commission.
- Three of the commissioners (Thomas, Ibanez and Reid) of the Equity and Empowerment Commission have met virtually a few times to review and make edits to the ordinance. The edits reflect the changes made to what the role is for the commission and the community, and to really help the City leadership to remain transparent and accountable to equity goals that the commission develops together.

- Commissioner Members reviewed and discussed the changes to the ordinance collectively and the final document will be worked on for the City's next Rules Committee for approval.

**b. Update of Community Engagement Survey**

- Vice Chair Karla Thomas led the discussion on the Equity Survey draft for the community input on the commission and the City can best engage with them around equity work.
- This survey will be the first of what will turn into an annual survey to go out to the community for consistent feedback and engagement.
- The survey will help the Commission identify what the community's thoughts are on what are issues that are important to them? How they prioritize the issues at hand? And how they think the City's leadership is doing on the equity initiatives?
- After this meeting, the survey will be put into survey monkey to go out to the community in both English and Spanish.

**c. Update of the Equitable Housing/Zoning Project**

- Vice Chair Karla Thomas led the discussion on the grant application that Connections put in for \$50,000 to help facilitate some of the work of the Zone Co audit and resident feedback. Also, what is the role of the Equity and Empowerment Commission in regards to this application process?
- Sue Loellbach, with Connections, provided a timeline of the work with a consultant will be to help with community engagement.
- The time frame is for Zone Co to do a review of the zoning code and report their initial their findings by the end of September. By mid or late October, Chicago Community Trust will notify Connections with their decision as to whether they will receive the \$50,000 grant.
- Once the grant has been awarded, the next step will be for Connections, with partnership of the Equity and Empowerment Commissions, will hire a consultant to start the work on equity in housing/zoning.

**5. Adjournment**