



Equity and Empowerment Commission

Thursday, January 18, 2024 @ 6:30 PM

Hybrid - Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, Room 2402

**COMMITTEE MEMBER
PRESENT:**

Darlene Cannon, Chair; Josephine Bostic, Commissioner; Shana Sexton, Commissioner; Christine Escobar, Commissioner; Parielle Davis; Molly Malone, Commissioner

**COMMITTEE MEMBER
ABSENT:**

Devon Reid, Councilmember; Kady McFadden, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT:

Tasheik Kerr, Assistant to the City Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

A. Welcome New ECC Members Josephine Bostic and Shana Sexton

The Commissioners introduced themselves and welcomed Commissioners Bostic and Sexton. Commissioner Bostic shared that she is a nurse practitioner and a resident advocate. She would like to give back to the Evanston community. Commissioner Sexton shared she is a social worker. She works with children with disabilities.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November Minutes will be placed on the February Agenda.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

4. DISCUSSION

A. Metropolitan Tenants Organization Presentation by David Wilson

David Wilson of the Metropolitan Tenants Organization (MTO) shared that he works to educate and empower tenants regarding their rights. Mr. Wilson also assists tenants in forming tenants associations. MTO has a hotline where tenants can inquire about their rights. MTO provides tenants with the tools to get the job done.

Mr. Wilson mentioned the Just Cause Ordinance. If the ordinance is passed, landlords will have to provide their tenants with a reason to move. The Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC) building formed the first tenant association in Evanston. Trisha Connolly shared that the tenant association

also works to build community - they pay a fee that can be used to host parties and other things. Tenants could also advocate for rights collectively and elect a board. Ms. Connolly also shared that a tenant association could also provide a sense of leadership and communication with their building.

- B. Housing Authority of Cook County Family Housing - Presentation by Victor Walchirk**
See Metropolitan Tenants Organization Presentation by David Wilson
- C. Accessibility and the Onboarding of Boards, Commissions, and Committee Members**
Commissioner Morales shared various suggestions for updating and improving the accessibility of the City's Boards, Commissions, and Committee Members' training materials. Commissioner Cannon motioned to make a connection with Molly and the City's ADA coordinator regarding the accessibility of the City's Boards, Commissions, and Committee Members' training materials. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Morales. The motion was approved unanimously. Ms. Kerr suggested Commissioner Morales meet with Clerk Stephanie Mendoza to review the suggestions and discuss what can be implemented.
- D. Accessibility at Evanston Train Stations**
Commissioners shared several accessibility issues at Evanston Train Stations.
- E. Referral tracker**
[Referral tracker](#)
Commissioners reviewed the referral tracker. There were no equity issues. The Commissioners shared they would revisit the referral pertaining to the Stretch Energy Code ordinance.
- F. Affordability of Senior Center Membership**
Audrey Thompson, Director of Parks and Recreation, provided statistics on the number of meals provided and donations collected. The data shows that the City takes in less funding than the services provided. The Levy Center, which is a 501(3)c, assists in paying for other programs. Ms. Thompson provided a list of services that are provided to seniors with their \$50 membership card. Fees could be 70% off base on a sliding scale.
- G. Inclusion at Summer Camps**
Matt Poole, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation, provided a summary of camp staff training around understanding nuances of gender diversity. The training was adopted from Chicago Public Schools. Audrey Thompson, Director of Parks and Recreation, referred to the Daddy Daughter Dance and shared that the department renamed the dance to "Kiss Dance."

5. CONSIDERATION

6. COMMUNICATION

7. REPORTS

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m