

**Equity and Empowerment Commission Meeting  
Minutes of February 22, 2018  
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center  
Aldermanic Library – 7:00 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jane Grover, Julie Corbier de Lara, Monte Dillard, Timothy Eberhart, Delores Holmes, Kathy Lyons, Mario Vela, Ald. Melissa Wynne

MEMBERS ABSENT: Alejandra Ibanez

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Patricia Efiom, Evonda Thomas-Smith, Janella Hardin

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**I. CALL TO ORDER: JANE GROVER, CHAIR**

A quorum being present, Chair Jane Grover called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Nina Raskin of Open Communities and the Evanston Justice Team, spoke in support of the Commission. She hopes that the Commission will provide specific recommendations to the Council for action, especially oversight to the police department to ensure equal treatment for people of color.

**III. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

Delores Holmes moved to nominate Jane Grover as Chair of the Equity and Empowerment Commission, seconded by Julie de Lara Corbier. A voice vote was taken. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Monte Dillard moved to nominate Mario Vela as Vice-Chair of the Equity and Empowerment Commission, seconded by Delores Holmes. A voice vote was taken. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 18, 2018 MEETING**

Timothy Eberhart moved to recommend approval of the Minutes of the January 18, 2018 Equity and Empowerment Commission Meeting, seconded by Delores Holmes. A voice vote was taken. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**V. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSION BYLAWS**

Chair Grover asked the Commissioners to review the bylaws and be prepared to discuss them and approve them at the next meeting. She noted that Commission members are appointed for two 3 year terms. Monté Dillard added that the bylaws should incorporate goals and measurable outcomes.

## **VI. STAFF REPORT**

Health and Human Service Director Evonda-Thomas Smith presented a Health Equity report to the Commissioners that highlighted:

- The divisions that comprise the Health and Human Services Department and their functions: 1) Public Health: Environmental Health; 2) Human Services and Advocacy.
- The Health and Human Services Department reports to the Illinois Department of Public Health and is recertified every 5 years with a Community Health Assessment called the Evanston Process for the Local Assessment of Needs (EPLAN).
- The Health and Human Services Department's partnership with Erie Family Health Center.
- How race plays a part in advancing health equity

## **VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Patricia Efiom discussed upcoming trainings including a joint effort between herself and Director Thomas-Smith, training of the Equity Advocates that represent each department, building equity into new hire orientation and other all staff trainings.

Dr. Efiom and Chair Grover discussed the PolicyLink website and upcoming Equity Summit 2-day conference in April. The cost of the conference will be covered by Cradle 2 Career.

Dr. Efiom noted an initiative to have partnering organizations purchase "All People Welcome" signs to post in their facilities. Also, there will be a "Just Folks: A Conversation with the Latino Community" scheduled.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn made by Ald. Wynne and seconded by Delores Holmes. The Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:37pm.