

**Equity and Empowerment Commission Meeting  
Minutes of March 22, 2018  
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center  
Aldermanic Library – 6:00 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Julie Corbier de Lara, Monte Dillard, Timothy Eberhart, Kathy Lyons, Mario Vela, Ald. Melissa Wynne, Alejandra Ibanez

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jane Grover, Delores Holmes

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Patricia A. Efiom, Janella Hardin

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**I. CALL TO ORDER: MARIO VELA, VICE-CHAIR**

A quorum being present, Vice-Chair Mario Vela called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ted Smukler, Director of Organizing for Open Communities came to speak in support of the Equity and Empowerment Coordinator position. He inquired about the priority-based budgeting process and if an equity lens would be applied.

Dr. Patricia A. Efiom explained that the equity lens is being used in the current priority-based budgeting process. Citizen comment will also be built into the budget discussion process.

**III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 22, 2018 MEETING**

Ald. Wynne moved to recommend approval of the Minutes of the February 22, 2018 Equity and Empowerment Commission Meeting, seconded by Monté Dillard. A voice vote was taken. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**IV. PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE COMMISSION TIME**

● **Rotating meeting venues**

Vice-Chair Vela discussed the proposed recommendation that as a means of "listening" to the community, the Commission would hold monthly meetings at different organizations in the community. The host organization would have the opportunity to share their work with the Commission. Vela also raised the question of goals the Commission wanted to accomplish and he welcomed feedback and ideas on the Commission's priorities.

● **Agenda suggestions**

Timothy Eberhart joined the Commission to represent the work of Environmental Justice. His current role with Citizens for a Greener Evanston is centered around the waste transfer station in the 5<sup>th</sup> ward. Currently work is being done to determine how to access the impact of the waste transfer station

on such issues as air quality. Recommendations for how issues should be addressed will be made to City Council. The lack of community engagement around this issue is particularly concerning. Eberhart is part of a larger group that includes Emerge ETHS and Northwestern representatives that are working to propose legislation to present to City Council for consideration. He plans to bring a full presentation to either the May or June meeting Commission meeting for the purpose of Commissioner's input.

Dr. Efiom discussed the possibility of Citizen's for a Greener Evanston hosting a Commission meeting. The meeting could potentially be held at Gibbs Morrison Cultural Center and include a tour of the waste transfer station.

- **Agenda outline**

Vice-Chair Vela presented a draft agenda outline for each meeting. Future agenda items will include and information on City operations by Deputy City Manager Erika Storlie, ethics training by Assistant City Attorney Mario Treto and Ald. Cicely Fleming will be invited to provide information on the National League of Cities equity work.

**V. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSION BYLAWS**

The Commissioners will review the bylaws and be prepared to adopt at the next meeting.

**VI. STAFF REPORT**

Dr. Efiom distributed an outline of the Government Alliance on Race and Equity framework.

**VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Julie de Lara Corbier distributed information about a documentary being show by host Evanston CASE.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn made by Ald. Wynne and seconded by Kathy Lyons. The Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:42 p.m.