

**Equity and Empowerment Commission Meeting
Minutes of April 26, 2018
Shorefront Legacy Center
Sherman United Methodist Church– 6:30 p.m.**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mario Vela

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Patricia Efiom

I. CALL TO ORDER: JANE GROVER, CHAIR

A quorum being present, Chair Jane Grover called the meeting to order at 6:07pm.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Sue Loellbach of Connections for the Homeless asked the Commission to lend its voice to the very critical issue of affordable housing. She stressed the importance of the issue of homelessness on a broad audience, specifically she asks the Commission to review any recommendations put forth to City Council regarding affordable housing. Finally, Loellbach asked Commissioners to please attend meetings such as the Housing and Homelessness Commission and City Council meetings.

Guests included Pat Lucas - Reclaim Evanston, Michelle Smith and Jessica Feldman - League of Women Voters, Alderman Cicely Fleming, Kristina Kariscer - The Daily Northwestern and Dino Robinson - Shorefront Legacy Center.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 22, 2018 MEETING

Monté Dillard moved approval of the minutes of the March 22, 2018 Equity and Empowerment Commission Meeting, with the of the time change from 7:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. as voted on at the last meeting, seconded by Delores Holmes. A voice vote was taken. **Motion passed unanimously.**

IV. COMMISSION BYLAWS

Commissioner Ibanez was concerned that the following statement did not specifically speak to the Commissions responsibility to address systemic inequities:

The Commission is responsible for evaluating, developing and recommending equity tools, to be used to examine policies, practices, services and programs. The Commission shall develop ways to measure and monitor community relations, race relations, and civil rights issues,

particularly those that are sources of intergroup conflict **and systemic inequities**; study and investigate issues of prejudice, bigotry, and discrimination for the purpose of developing action strategies to address them; develop strategies to improve quality of life, livability and equity for all residents of Evanston; submit an annual report to City Council on the goals, activities and accomplishments of the Commission and; create subcommittees, as necessary, in furtherance of the Commission's purpose.

Commissioner Lyons moved that "systemic inequities" be included, seconded by Commissioner Eberhart. A voice vote was taken. **Motion passed unanimously.**

V. City Structure, Erika Storlie

Erika Storlie, Assistant City Manager gave a presentation on How Evanston Works (see handout.)

VI. Shorefront Legacy Center, Dino Robinson

Founder and Board President Dino Robinson introduced the work of Shorefront which began in 1995. Since that time Shorefront has, and continues to amass a collection of artifacts, documents, photographs and family archives that represent and depict the lives of Blacks on the Chicago suburban North Shore.

In addition, Robinson gave an overview of Blacks in the Northshore. In 1824 Illinois voted to become a slave state, the vote failed by a mere 1,500 votes. Following that vote, Illinois began adopting "Black codes" that severely impacted the Black community living in the Northshore. Beach tokens were one mechanism created to keep Blacks from gathering in public places.

VII. STAR COMMUNITIES FRAMEWORK

Due to the lateness of the hour, this item was tabled until the May 24th meeting.

VIII. SHARING

Dr. Efiom announced that on Tuesday, May 29th, the Office of Equity & Empowerment will be holding discussions about the recent incident where two Black males were arrested in a Philadelphia Starbucks. Starbucks has responded with an apology and will close all 8,000 locations for training on May 29th. The Office of Equity & Empowerment will hold three (3) sessions, 10:30am to noon, 1:00pm – 2:30pm and 3:30pm to 5:00pm.

The next Beyond Diversity will be held on June 7th & 8th from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Parasol Room at the Civic Center. Please let Dr. Efiom know if you are interested in attending.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner de Corbier and seconded by Commissioner Ibanez. The Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:14 pm.