

**Equity and Empowerment Commission Meeting  
Minutes of May 24, 2018  
Center for Independent Futures, 1015 Davis St.  
6:30 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jane Grover, Delores Holmes Julie Corbier de Lara, Monte Dillard, Kathy Lyons, Mario Vela, Alejandra Ibanez, Ald. Melissa Wynne (arrived 6:58 pm)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Timothy Eberhart

STAFF PRESENT: Assistant City Attorney Mario Treto, Jr., Janella Hardin

OTHERS PRESENT: Daily Northwestern, League of Women Voters, Center for Independent Futures, Patrick Hughes

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

A quorum being present, Chair Jane Grover called the meeting to order at 6:41pm.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment

**III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 26, 2018 MEETING**

Delores Holmes moved to recommend approval of the Minutes of the April 26, 2018 Equity and Empowerment Commission Meeting, seconded by Jane Grover. A voice vote was taken. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**IV. MUNICIPAL ETHICS – ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY MARIO TRETO JR.**

Assistant City Attorney Mario Treto Jr. presented an overview of how to be compliant with the City of Evanston Ethics Ordinance including:

- The duty to address potential conflicts of interest;
- The duty to use public resources responsibly; and
- The duty to avoid even the appearance of impropriety.

He discussed the use of City resources, conflicts of interest, acceptance of gifts, prohibited political activities and the financial disclosure statement. He noted that gifts can be donated to charity if an official feels it is improper.

**V. CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT FUTURES**

Ann Sickon, Executive Director of the Center for Independent Futures, discussed the mission of the organization to provide support for people with disabilities. She noted a partnership with Evanston Township High School transition services to help graduates with employment and integration into the community.

Ira Mitchell, Co-Chair of Center for Independent Futures Board of Directors, discussed the vision that all individuals with a disability have an opportunity for a full life. The organization supports both individuals and their families.

Community Member Lindsay Tonyan explained how the Center for Independent Futures has helped her to live and work independently.

#### **VI. CITY OF EVANSTON BUDGET**

Chair Grover distributed copies of the priority-based budgeting survey, scoring guidelines and program descriptions. The City is facing a \$3 million budget deficit for 2019. The survey lists 46 programs and services provided by the City and the purpose of the survey is to better align spending with community priorities. The survey will be open until June 7<sup>th</sup> and responses will be presented at the June 18, 2018 City Council meeting along with next steps.

Chair Grover explained the process of choosing the programs listed according to the scoring guidelines which included whether the service is mandated by the federal or state government, cost recovery of the program, change in demand for the service, reliance on City to provide the service and the portion of the community served by the program. The equity lens was also applied to the survey.

Questions from the Commissioners: What is the plan for community engagement? Is there a budget calendar? Are other surveys or priorities integrated into the priority-based budgeting survey (E-PLAN survey)?

#### **VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Grover reminded the Commissioners to watch the June 18<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting discussion on the budget survey.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn made by Ald. Wynne and seconded by Jane Grover. The Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:21 p.m.