



City of
Evanston™
EQUITY AND EMPOWERMENT COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 18, 2019

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

**Lorraine Morton Civic Center
2100 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, Parasol Room**

Present: D. Holmes, M. Wynne, A. Ibañez, J. Grover, K. Lyons, J. Corbier de Lara, M. Dillard

Present: T. Eberhart, M. Weinberg

Staff Present: P. Efiom

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jane Grover at 6:39 pm and a quorum was declared. Chair Grover called meeting to order at 6:39 p.m. Comm. Grover briefly introduced Comm. Maxx Weinberg who will be joining us officially at the August 15 meeting.

Four persons signed up for public comment. Ms. Tina Payton wants to ensure that the work of the “Solutions Only” subcommittee does not get stuck in City Council. Mr. Corliss Sutton hopes that the reparation work brought forth through the subcommittee will be actualized. He is particularly interested in reparations that address the issue of housing. Ms. Roberta Henson notes that “The City of Evanston has neglected Black homeowners devastated by the impact of redlining. She stated that “older” Evanstonians continue to struggle to keep their homes.

Mr. Kumar Jensen, Chief Sustainability and Resiliency Officer, returned to the Commission as a follow up to his CARP Policy Engagement presentation last month. The policy package was designed by staff, modeled as an omnibus. The plan will follow a two-year process. The first year will be a pilot process, broken down in three (3) phases: to educate and solicit input, reflect back, and then do policy development.

CARP: Public Policy Engagement feedback

- Proposed timeline should be longer.
- Comm. Holmes said that the enforcement of the resolutions and ordinances should be considered. She also stated that there is a need to fully understand the impact of the cost of green on individuals
- Comm. Dillard that he is concerned about the information inequities both in distribution and reading level. He also suggested the use of pictures when advertising the very technical language of CARP.
- Comm. Lyons recommends a grade level no higher than 10th grade but 6th grade would be better. The reading level does not assume a lack of intelligence. She further stated that the CARP team should go into the community to engage residents where they are.

- Comm. Ibañez stated that she and Comm. Holmes had worked very hard on a Community Engagement Policy and would like that work to be reflected in the CARP Engagement Policy
- Need to develop a list of other stakeholders

“Solutions Only” Subcommittee report

Comm. Holmes chair of the subcommittee reported that the subcommittee held public meetings on the evening of Thursday, July 11 at the Gibbs-Morrison Cultural Center the other on Saturday, July 18, 2019. There were more than 50 in attendance at each meeting Comm. Holmes reported that the meetings had generated a broad list of outstanding recommendations. However, she reminded the Commission that Ald. Rue Simmons made a very specific referral to the Commission and that was to focus on housing and economic development.

Ald. Rue Simmons thanked the group for the very hard work with a very aggressive timeline and looks forward to the report going to City Council.

Next steps: Subcommittee will meet on Monday, July 22 at 6:00 p.m. to review all of the information received and determine a set of recommendations to come back to the August 15 meeting of the full Commission. Assuming that the full Commission is in favor of the recommendations, those recommendations will be presented at the September 9, 2019 City Council meeting.

Vice-Chair Election

It was moved by Comm. Holmes and properly seconded that Comm. Dillard be nominated as Vice-Chair for the Equity & Empowerment Commission. Comm. Dillard very graciously accepted the nomination. It was moved by Comm. Lyons and seconded by Comm. Dillard that Chair Grover be re-affirmed as Chair. **Both motions carried 7-0.**

Commission Work for the Upcoming Months

Truth and Reconciliation Initiative

Given that the “Solutions Only” subcommittee heard repeatedly that the story of the community must be told, Comm. Holmes proposed that the Commission formally move to launch a Truth and Reconciliation Initiative which the Commission has discussed several times. Comm. Holmes stated that it is important that the City lead this effort but with full inclusion of the community. The Commission would be the vehicle that drives the initiative Comm. Dillard stated that this initiative is essential to our really engaging our community and if done right would be very powerful. Ald. Wynne believes that the Equity & Empowerment Commission is “the right entity” to lead this work. Comm. Lyons says this initiative is how the Commission can help empower people through hearing their stories.

The subcommittee for the Truth and Reconciliation is Comm. Holmes, Dillard, Ibanez, Weinberg (appointed in his absence) and Lyons.

Equity Framework

Dr. Efiom will update the Commission at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

**Next meeting:
Thursday, September 19, 2019
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center**

**2100 Ridge Avenue, Evanston
Room 2402**