



City of Milwaukee

200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
53202

Meeting Minutes - Final

EQUAL RIGHTS COMMISSION

CHAIR: VACANT

VICE CHAIR: TONY SNELL

**Mayhoua Moua, Nathan Guequierre, Martha Collins, Jennifer
Bennett, William Crowley, and Jessica Boling**

Staffing: Jessica Langill, 414.286.5532, jlangi@milwaukee.gov

Wednesday, October 21, 2020

4:30 PM

Virtual Meeting

This meeting is being held virtually through GoToMeeting. Join by the web at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/131181029> or by phone at 1 (408) 650-3123. Use access code: 131-181-029.

1 Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 4:33PM

2 Roll Call

*Tony Snell - present
Martha Collins - present
Mayhoua Moua - present
Nathan Guequierre - present
Jennifer Bennett - present
Jessica Boling - present
William Crowley - absent*

3 Approval of Minutes from September 9th, 2020

Tabled until next meeting

4 Role of ERC & Next Steps

Commissioner Snell will be taking on the Acting Chair position.

Commissioner Snell stated that the ERC is appointed by the Mayor and receives its oversight power from the Common Council. He shared that it is important to maintain relationships with the CC, Mayor's Office, and other City Departments.

Commissioner Moua stated that the ERC will continue to move forward on all of the work it has lined up.

Commissioner Collins stated she needs more direction on the role of the Compliance & Enforcement Committee and the Commission as a whole. She requested more guidance from the Mayor's Office and/or Common Council.

Commissioner Snell stated the ERC focus is the people, and the ERC must find out what role it plays to support and protect the people.

5 Common Council Legislation Update

Commissioner Snell stated he has connected with the City Clerk about the resolutions and

The Crown Act has been picked up by Alderman Hamilton and will be discussed at the upcoming Judiciary & Legislation Committee meeting. Commissioner Collins will testify on behalf of the ERC.

Commissioner Snell stated that the cashless ban and changes to Chapter 109 have not been taken up by the Common Council. He asked that these issues be sent back to the ERC for further internal and external discussion, in addition to finding sponsors for the legislation. He advised that it is important to show community buy-in before moving legislation forward. Commissioner Guequierre agreed and stated that the ERC needs to do more work to build consensus and hear more voices before pushing something forward.

No objections.

6 Vice Chair Election

With Commissioner Snell moving to the Acting Chair role, a Vice Chair election is needed.

The City Clerk, Jim Owczarski, led the nominations & voting process for the role of Vice Chair. Commissioner Moua nominated Commissioner Guequierre, who declined. Commissioner Guquierre nominated Commissioner Moua, who declined. Commissioner Bennett nominated Commissioner Collins. Commissioner Collins nominated Commissioner Bennett.

Commissioner Bennett: 2 votes

Commissioner Collins: 3 votes

Commissioner Guequierre made a motion for unanimous appointment of Commissioner Collins to the Vice Chair. Unanimously appointed.

Commissioner Snell asked Commissioner Bennett to become the Chair of the Compliance & Enforcement Committee since Commissioner Collins is now Vice Chair. Commissioner Bennett accepted.

7 New Commissioner Update

Commissioner Snell stated that the nominations for new Commissioners has been passed along to the Mayor's Office. The Mayor's Office stated that they will do new appointments after the budget approval.

8 Committee Updates

Communications Committee: Will focus on implementing a process for internal communication among Commissioners. Commissioner Guequierre stated a survey will go out to Commissioners asking for preferred communication ideas.

Outreach & Education Committee: Pausing on creating the outreach toolkit until there is a stronger plan on how to build internal and external partnerships. The Human Rights Day event will be held virtually on December 12th. Key note speakers include: the Director of ACLU International, the President of LULAC, and Reggie Jackson. There will also be bi-weekly virtual community discussions leading up to the event.

Compliance & Enforcement: On hold waiting on more direction from the Mayor's Office about the role of the Committee and the potential appointment of an Equity Officer and a creation of an Office of Equity. The Committee has been planning on surveying 3-4 City Departments on their compliance with the Racism as a Public Health Crisis resolution. The Data Analyst from DOA will be assisting with the collection of this data. There has also been work put in to creating an online portal for complaint intake.

The ERC received a complaint from the NAACP stating the City has not been complying with Chapter 355. Ben Roovers stated the ERC does not have the authority to respond to this complaint. Commissioner Snell stated he would be talking with DOA and the Assistant City Attorney about asking the City Department responsible for this to report to the ERC. The ERC received a complaint regarding offensive decorations, but Ben Roovers stated the ERC does not have authority to respond to this complaint.

9 Community Dialogue & Upcoming Events

Commissioner Snell talked about early voting and the right to vote.

Commissioner Guequierre stated that there is a reading group starting through the American Holocaust Museum.

10 Next Full Commission Meeting: Wednesday, November 18th, 2020

Meeting will start at 5:30PM

11 Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 5:38pm

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