



ABSTRACT/SYNOPSIS OF THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE OFFICIAL ACTIONS OF THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WHITEWATER, WALWORTH AND JEFFERSON COUNTIES, WISCONSIN.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION MINUTES OF MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2022

1. Call to Order and Roll Call –The virtual meeting came to order at approximately 5:00 pm.
Present at the meeting were Common Council Representative Brienne Brown and Common Council Representative Jill Gerber. Also present was staff support City Manager John Weidl.
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 2, 2022 - Gerber moved to approve the minutes with a second by Brown.
3. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
Ayes: Brown, , Gerber
Noes: None
Abstained: None
Absent: Zimmerman
Equal Opportunities Commission Member Maryanne Zimmerman arrived at approximately 5:02 pm
4. Hearing of Citizen Comments – There were no citizen comments.
5. Old Business
 - a. Hate & Bias Complaint Form Procedures – Gerber mentioned some changes to the procedures. Brown thought the procedures were created by former city manager and former police chief. Weidl received Gerber’s suggested changes and asked if the commission wanted to review them at the next meeting. Zimmerman said she would email her questions. Brown agreed.
6. New Business
 - a. Issues with Recent Immigration into Whitewater – Brown mention that the city of Delavan has a committee on homelessness. Brown said that during her campaigning she found that there are Venezuelan’s immigrants in addition to the Nicaraguan immigrants in Whitewater. Brown said the EOC should look into how to serve the asylum seekers (immigrants) so there aren’t problems and they feel like part of the community. Brown mentioned having Cesar Valadez (works with school district) and Araceli Wence (works with the police department) come talk to the EOC about their contacts with the asylum seekers. Zimmerman said she has resources that can be shared. Brown talked about the housing or lack of. Zimmerman mentioned contacting United Way. Brown said she would make the call. Gerber mentioned another United Way contact. Gerber said it was her first meeting and asked for clarification of the commissions goals. Brown said that commission identifies

problems and invites people who can explain the situations. Brown said there are gaps in information. Gerber asked if the police department was working on something. Weidl said Police Chief Dan Meyer was working on developing questions to share with immigration attorneys. Weidl said he would share the information with the EOC and common council. Weidl said if the EOC has questions they can email them to him. Gerber asked about having Meyer address the EOC. Brown said she would contact Valadez.

- b. Issues Facing the Unhoused (Homelessness) – Brown said the Delavan homeless committee says there are 400 homeless families in Walworth County and a lot of them are in Whitewater. Brown says there are students couch surfing, families living behind Walmart and a guy parking at Cravath Lakefront park. Brown is not sure where to go with this issue. There is no one taking care of homelessness except Bethel House, which is just for women and children. Zimmerman said there are long waiting lists for homeless. Vouchers can be given out, but they run out quickly. Warming shelters were shut down during COVID, maybe that should be revisited. Brown said she would ask the Delavan committee to come to an EOC meeting. Zimmerman mentioned a social worker at Delavan-Darien School District as a possible contact. Brown asked that Zimmerman reach out to her. Gerber asked what UW-Whitewater does with homeless students. Brown said there is a fund started by some professors to assist students with rent and there is the Warhawk Food Pantry, but she didn't know what else UW-Whitewater provided. Gerber said she would ask around.

Citizen Chuck Mills said he has tried to work with some people on this issue. He mentioned the issues that occurred at the Whitewater Community Space, which caused them to close down. He said the people who run the space have more knowledge than most about this issue. Mills mentioned possible human trafficking in the area. Brown would like to reach out to everyone to bring all of the information together. Brown said Zimmerman would talk to Ellen Conrad, Gerber would look at UW-W to see what they are doing and Brown will make calls to the United Way and Community Space.

- c. Whitewater Unified School District Representative to the Equal Opportunities Commission – Weidl said that Whitewater Unified School District (WUSD) Superintendent Dr. Carolyn Pate Hefty recommended the WUSD Multilingual Coordinator, Terilyn Robles, as the WUSD rep to the EOC. Zimmerman worked with Robles and had good things to say about her. Brown asked for a motion to appoint Robles to the EOC. Zimmerman made a motion with a second by Gerber.

The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Ayes: Brown, Zimmerman, Gerber

Noes: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

7. Future Agenda Items –Weidl mentioned there were two open seats on the EOC and he recommended keeping it as future business on the agendas until they are filled. Weidl will add the openings to the city manager update and website. Brown said it would be good to have a replacement from UW-Whitewater for Dr. Kenny Yarbrough’s open seat. Brown indicated that she would “ask around”. Brown asked if they only had to work at UW-Whitewater and Zimmerman said the citizen representatives should be employed in a field relevant to the committee and work in Whitewater, but they don’t have to live in Whitewater. Weidl said he would figure out how to get the openings posted.
8. Next Meeting Date – The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 5, 2022 at 5:00 pm.
9. Adjournment – Brown asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting. Zimmerman made a motion with a second from Gerber.

The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Ayes: Brown, Zimmerman, Gerber

Noes: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

The meeting ended at approximately 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Boyd, Executive Assistant