



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, FEBRUARY 7, 2022

1. Call to Order and Roll Call –The virtual meeting came to order at 5:00 pm.

Present at the meeting were Common Council Representatives Brienne Brown and Lynn Binnie, and Commission member Maryann Zimmerman. Commission member Dr. Kenny Yarbrough arrived at 5:04 pm. Commission Member Ryatisima Blue was absent from the meeting. Also present were staff support City Manager Cameron Clapper and Finance Director Steve Hatton.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 17, 2022 – Zimmerman moved to approve the minutes with a second by Binnie.

Ayes: Brown, Binnie, Yarbrough, Zimmerman

Noes: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Blue

The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

3. Hearing of Citizen Comments – There were no citizen comments.

4. Old Business

- a. Ride Share Program Presentation – Hatton reviewed the ride share presentation with the commission members. Zimmerman said that citizens need to know more about ride share. Binnie mentioned that due to the pandemic riders couldn't share the taxi and asked if riders can now share. Hatton said that he would find out. Yarbrough asked if the drivers assist handicapped riders. Hatton said that drivers help with the manual ramps, but do not help with packages. Brown mentioned that two drivers speak Spanish and that the schools are giving out information about the ride share program.
- b. Review of Draft Hate Speech Form – Clapper reviewed the hate, bias, abuse form with the commission members and asked for any suggested changes. Yarbrough suggested removing the word Abuse so people who are sexually or physically abused won't be confused and use the form. He also mentioned that something should be added concerning when the person submitting the form will hear back from the city. In addition, the procedure should be simple. Zimmerman said to add a disclaimer about false accusations. Brown said there should be consequences for dishonesty. Zimmerman mentioned that an investigation could take a lot of hours. Yarbrough said that the investigations should be considered informal or formal and what will be

the expectations. Binnie mentioned adding a name field and Brown mentioned adding an address field. Yarbrough mentioned retention of complaints. Brown asked if the procedures will be available next month. Clapper said he will be meeting with his executive assistant and HR manager to come up with a procedure and bring it to the next meeting.

5. New Business

- a. Discuss Black History Month Ideas and Events for the Whitewater Community – Clapper shared a memo listing Black History Month events compiled by PR-Communications Manager Kristin Mickelson, which will be shared on social media. Mickelson reached out to the Whitewater Unified School District, but their events are for students. Brown mentioned that Mickelson should reach out to the library. Yarbrough would like to see city sponsored celebrations. Clapper said the library has events. Yarbrough said the city should post the events. Zimmerman said whatever entity does it, it should be done well. UW-Whitewater has the funding, expertise and experience. She doesn't want the city to do a bad job. Brown said she would like the city to do more thoughtful stuff. Clapper said it comes down to funding and staff time to get the information out. Zimmerman mentioned a community calendar. Brown said a separate calendar with meetings in town would be good. Maybe partner with the Banner. Additional languages would be nice too, maybe French, Spanish and English.

6. Future Agenda Items – In addition to the hate, bias form procedure, Binnie mentioned having Dr. Yarbrough give a brief synopsis on the state statutes dealing with hate speech.

7. Next Meeting Date – The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 7, 2022 at 5:00 pm.

8. Adjournment – Yarbrough made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second from Zimmer.

Ayes: Brown, Binnie, Yarbrough, Zimmerman

Noes: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Blue

The motion passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting ended at 5:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Boyd, Executive Assistant