



Minutes
Committee on Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
Wednesday, September 15, 2021 @ 4:30 p.m.
City Hall 1st Floor Lobby

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Spitzley called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

PRESENT via audio/video

Council Member Spitzley, Chair
Council Member Jackson, Vice-Chair
Council Member Dunbar, Member

OTHERS PRESENT via audio/video

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Heather Sumner, OCA
Lisa Hagen, OCA
Emilie Smith, MSU

Council Member Spitzley passed the gavel to Council Member Jackson.

MINUTES

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER DUNBAR TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 8, 2021 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Council Member Jackson passed the gavel to Council Member Spitzley.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public present at this time, therefore no public comment.

DISCUSSION

RESOLUTION – Introduction and Setting Public Hearing; Ordinance Amendment to Create Chapter 256; Section 256.01-256.04 Establish Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Board (Administration)

RESOLUTION – Introduction and Setting Public Hearing; Ordinance Amendment to Create Chapter 265; Section 265.01- 265-04 Establish Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Board (CM Betz)

Council Member Spitzley noted one was proposed by the Administration and one by Council Member Betz. Therefore she is asking for Council Member Betz and Administration to attend a meeting to discuss the differences. Council Member Jackson and Dunbar asked OCA if they appear to be the same, why can't they be combined. Ms. Sumner stated in the OCA opinion they are not the same in the actual content and have different purposes and do different things.

She suggested the Committee look at the HRCS ordinance as a comparison, because the ordinance proposed by CM Betz is directive and the Administration version it is overarching. Council Member Spitzley asked OCA if the Council and Committee can do what Council Member Betz's ordinance is proposing, and Ms Sumner stated there could be a committee created to advice. Council Member Spitzley asked if this Committee on Equity Diversity and Inclusion could have the authority to do what CM Betz is proposing in his ordinance. OCA confirmed this Committee could bring in a group of people to provide advice. Council Member Dunbar asked if this Committee could be expanded to invite people with the background to give input on ordinances in front of this Committee. Ms. Sumner stated there is nothing stopping this Committee on Equity Diversity and Inclusion from doing this, and the proposed ordinance board would not be necessary to do that. Council Member Spitzley asked if this Committee has the authority to require actions to come to this Committee before Council takes action. Ms. Sumner and Ms. Hagen stated they could look at the Council rules to see what authority is defined for this Committee. Currently as the ordinances are written, they are not required to come to this Committee. Council Member Dunbar asked if a policy can be made internally that any time an ordinance that deals with what this Committee defines, needs to dually be referred to this Committee for review. Ms. Sumner stated that could be covered under Council Rules for the Committees. Council Member Spitzley spoke in support of the change, so that with the change of Council leadership, referrals could go anywhere, so a policy in the Council Rules would determine it has to come to this Committee. She then noted a question for CM Betz would be if his proposed ordinance could be merged into this standing Committee. The Committee consensus is to invite both parties to the next meeting on October 6th to present their ordinances to this Committee, and pattern after the former Ad Hoc Committee on Equity Diversity and Inclusion. Ms. Hagen read Rule 16 of the Council Rules on Committee assignments. The Committee spoke briefly on an Ad Hoc sub Committee of the Committee on Equity Diversity and Inclusion.

RESOLUTION – Budget Priorities for FY2022/2023

The earlier proposed separate resolution will now be added to the language in the Budget Priorities in front of the Council on Monday, 9/20.

Council Member Jackson wanted to propose childcare vouchers for residents of the City of Lansing in the Budget Priorities. Ms. Smith with the MSU Project on Youth Equity spoke on her programs and handed out flyers. Council Member Spitzley asked Council Member Jackson how much he was looking for, because there could be COVID dollars not spent that could be used in the budget for this. She also advised him that during the budget process next year in March he should be prepared to have statistics. Council Member Jackson proposed only providing the language and making the Administration determine the dollar amount. Council Member Spitzley asked Council Member Jackson to propose the language in writing and provide by end of day September 12th to the office for the Committee of the Whole packet. Council Member Dunbar questioned if this proposed funding couldn't be part of the HRCS programming where they do the pass through funds for organizations. Council Member Jackson stated he would write the language with the funding in HRCS, Cares Act and block grants. Council Member Dunbar encouraged language to direct the funds through HRCS to the organization where daycare is already being done. Council Member Spitzley also encourage language on income based.

Council Member Dunbar asked for language on the accountability for the MRJEA on performance indicators. This would include an outside auditor position to audit City programs for legitimacy and monitor the accountability piece. It was determined a good starting amount would be \$125,000.

The Committee consensus was to keep the Social Workers item, and the Grant Writer option also in the document.

OTHER

No other topics of discussion.

Adjourn

Adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Submitted by, Sherrie Boak

Recording Secretary, Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee November 17, 2021