



Minutes
Committee on Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
Wednesday, November 17, 2021 @ 4:30 p.m.
City Council Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENT

Council Member Spitzley, Chair
Council Member Jackson, Vice-Chair – left at 5 p.m.
Council Member Dunbar, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Heather Sumner, OCA
Council Member Betz
Mayor Schor
Jim Smiertka, OCA
Kim Coleman, HRCS
Guadalupe Ayala
Willard Walker
Linda Sanchez-Gazella, HR arrived at 4:53 p.m.

MINUTES

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 15, 2021 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

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 began the discussion by noting that there were two resolutions referred to Council; one from the Mayor and one from Council Member Betz. At 4:20 p.m. today an additional draft #8 was sent to Council, which combined the two that were referred.

Council Member Betz concurred he had reviewed draft #8 in the 10 minutes before the meeting and he would be agreeable to combine the two ordinances.

Council Member Spitzley instructed that the next steps would be for the City Attorney's office to review draft #8 since this is the first time they had seen it also. The Mayor concurred that the OCA review should be done.

Council Member Betz outlined for the Committee his reasoning for proposing the ordinance he drafted (Chapter 265, Section 265.01-265.04 Equity Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Board) which he stated was done after research on what other cities have with similar boards. He continued to explain that what he found was how the committee process works and how it is onerous to take an ordinance and resolution and put in this Committee and another committee, so he was looking for a board under the Administration to review at the same time as a Council Committee to provide a recommendation to the Council Committee on Equity Diversity and Inclusion. He added that the language of the ordinance also address how the Council refers items to this new advisory committee. Council Member Betz reiterated that he just read draft #8 and it does appear to be a combination of the two referred ordinance, and believes it will work.

Mayor Schor explained to the Committee that his proposed ordinance came from his Racial Justice and Alliance group, hoping to have an official City Board, and in this case they already have a DEI officer who would staff it.

Ms. Coleman introduce Guadalupe Ayala, Willard Walker with HRCS, and confirmed her office had taken both documents and inserted Council Member Betz into their proposed ordinance.

Council Member Jackson asked for confirmation that the proposed draft 8 in front of the Committee currently is the combination of both referred ordinances, and Ms. Coleman confirmed. Council Member Jackson then asked if this Advisory Board would be a Mayor board or Council Committee. Mayor Schor stated it would be an official City Board, and Mr. Smiertka added per the Charter it will be an Advisory Board, and they added as examples the Parks Board, and the Public Service Board. The Mayor confirmed he would make the recommendations and Council would appointment. Council Member Jackson then asked who this Board would advise. Council Member Betz outlined the current referral process. Council Member Spitzley asked if it would be a referral to the Council Committee or the Mayor Advisory Board, and Council Member Betz stated his intention is for it to be referred to the new Advisory Board. Council Member Jackson suggested the referrals still come to the Committee on Equity Diversity and Inclusion, and work with the new Advisory Board.

Mayor Schor stepped away from the meeting at 4:44 p.m.

Council Member Dunbar asked what the intention of this current City Council Committee on Equity Diversity and Inclusion would be. Council Member Spitzley stated this Committee would work in conjunction with the Advisory Board. Ms. Coleman stated the Advisory Board will look at things that have a negative effects on the community.

Mayor Schor returned to the meeting at 4:47 p.m.

Council Member Spitzley reminded all present that this Committee is the legislative branch. Council Member Jackson asked how deep of a review will the Advisory Board do. Ms. Coleman stated they will work with other agencies in the area. Mayor Schor encouraged the Committee Members to make recommendations of any specific experts that want considered to be added to the ordinance, but they will have to Lansing residents. Council Member Spitzley asked the Committee to make recommendations to the OCA for them to incorporate into the next draft of the ordinance.

Mr. Smiertka asked what name they were going to go with since the two referred ordinances and two different names. Ms. Sumner referenced the draft #8 which states "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion". Council Member Betz stated he was looking for a broader equity board related to an equity plan.

Council Member Jackson asked what was going to happen to the Mayor Racial Alliance Group, and Mayor Schor stated it would probably be disbanded because it was never intended to be permanent.

Ms. Sumner referred everyone present to page 3 of draft 8, line 12 which stated 285.02 which is different than the way the Charter states appointments to boards are done, so they will review 5-103 of the Charter. Mayor Schor and Council Member Betz concurred they would want it to match the Charter. Council Member Betz referred to page 5, lines 4-7 of draft 8, asked that language to be broader.

Mr. Smiertka reminded the Committee the new Board will have to adopt their own by-laws.

Ms. Sumner noted that (A) on page 1 could be broad and the remaining sections could be less broad. Council Member Spitzley asked that it start out broad and in compliance with the Elliott Larsen Act. Mayor Schor asked that "sexual orientation and identity" be included and when referencing ordinances it should be clear "local and state".

The Committee consensus is to meet again on Wednesday, December 1, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. The Administration, OCA and Council Member Betz were asked to attend the meeting and in the meantime work together on the final draft the Committee can act on to set a public hearing in January, 2022.

Ms. Boak asked the draft document to be provided to her no later than November 29, 2021 9 a.m. for the packet to the Committee.

OTHER

No other topics of discussion.

Adjourn

Adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Submitted by, Sherrie Boak

Recording Secretary, Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee February 9, 2022