Racial & Ethnic Equity Commission  
Draft Minutes of Meeting  
September 15, 2022 – 6:00 pm Kenosha County Admin Building

Committee Members Present: Elizabeth Garcia, Bradden Backer, Justin Crosby, Supervisor Brian Thomas-(left at 6:30 to attend Finance Committee Meeting-returns at 6:50p)  
Virtual: Mimi Yang, Derrell Greene  
Excused: Tyler Arentz, Brian Martinez

Others Present: Kelsey Hubeler, Jennifer Kopp, Lisa Pappert, John Jansen, John Franco, Amanda Nedweski

6:01 PM  
1. Call to Order/Roll Call – Commissioner Backer called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

6:00 PM  
2. Approval of Minutes- August 19, 2022: Supervisor Thomas made a motion to approve. Seconded by Supervisor Gaschke. All aye. Motion passes.

6:02 PM  
3. Updates from Staff: Executive Committee will meet at 6:00pm on September 22\textsuperscript{nd}.

6:03 PM  
4. Citizens Comments –

Maddie-10025 66\textsuperscript{th} St. Introduced herself and expressed interest in the commission, is apart of the Youth in Governance Program.

Ellen-7824 5\textsuperscript{th} Ave: She would like an opportunity to have a discussion with the REEC and the community such a viewing of a film or reading of a book.

Commissioner Yang would love to explore this route with Ellen.

Gale- 7624 18\textsuperscript{th} Ave- Interested in the work of this commission and would like to see it go somewhere. She would like to review the data and the compilation of information from the listening sessions. Specifically interested in the police relationship with people of color in Kenosha and setting up a complaint process.

6:40 PM  
5. Review of Listening Sessions- Commissioner Yang would like to express her gratitude for Kelsey’s note taking for the commission. Supervisor Gaschke was very encouraged by the turnout of the last listening session and is excited about the future listening sessions. There were 50 people at the last listening session and about 12 speakers. The Commission for Dismantling Racism promoted the session and there was a significant turnout. In response, the commission needs more data concerning the racial and ethnic that reflects the department by department. Kelsey will obtain data from our Sheriff’s department: sworn and not sworn. Commissioner Greene states we do have most of that data.
Commissioner Yang would like to look at data regarding bond and race. Commissioner Garcia states that once in the system, it’s hard to get out. Kelsey suggests there can be a round table discussion. Commissioner Garcia would like to formally invite the Sheriff’s Department. Commissioner Greene asks how do we get the community to trust the police?

7:04 PM
6. **REEC Website Implementation**- Kelsey states we can implement a website page consistent with the other departments such as parks. She would like to add the commissions mission and various asp Backer makes a motion to move to ask the County Executive to activate the navigation too to the county website page for the commission. Seconded by Commissioner Crosby. All Aye. Motion Passes

Supervisor Thomas would like the commission to approve the topics posted on the webpage.

Kelsey informs the commission that she advises the commission to continue to communicate with the Community via a route already in place such as community interaction, citizen comments, listening sessions, or contacting a County Board Supervisor. We do not want to create a personal email specific to the commission. Attorney Kopp discusses the legal implications of a specific email address or complaint form.

7:13 PM
7. **Report to County Board for September 22nd Executive Committee Meeting**- Commissioner Backer provided a draft of the first report for the County Board. An email copy was distributed to the Commissioners appearing virtually. Commissioner Backer starts his presentation, Supervisor Thomas reads the mission of the Commission and suggests this is the expectation of the Executive Committee. Commissioner Backer states this presentation is what the Commission has done to date. Supervisor Gaschke would agree that over the last year that the understanding is that the commission will have not yet reached a conclusion, but a progress report on how the Commission has fulfilled its mission. He believes the rough draft is significant for the report. Commissioner Crosby would like to revise the report to be written as a narrative versus a bullet point format. Commissioner Yang would like to emphasize the commission started with no roadmap, then were able to focus on one issue and would like to include the sociological focus of the group. Commissioner Garcia suggests the commission should give information to set the stage before the report, an introduction. Commissioner Yang would like to add one more bullet point of process and incorporate suggestions from the listening sessions to the report. Supervisor Gaschke would like to add the word begin to process and incorporate suggestions from the listening sessions.

Commissioner Backer would like to make a motion to approve the rough draft report with the caveat of adding an introduction, **Supervisor Gaschke makes the motion to approve the amended rough draft report. Seconded by Supervisor Thomas. All Aye. Motion Passes**

The Commission discusses the roles of who will present and who will answer questions. Commissioner Garcia volunteers to present. Commissioner Crosby requests the attendance of every Commissioner to be present. Commissioner Greene is volunteered to answer potential questions from the Committee regarding the presentation.

6:11 PM
8. **Youth in Justice Report for Kenosha County**- Supervisor Thomas hands out presentation and discusses the data within. There is a report from the Department of Justice regarding a breakdown of arrests by categories. He investigated the census and broke down the area of arrests by race and
ethnicity for informational purposes. The Youth in Justice report produced by Donna Rose reflects statistical information for future arrests.

7:52 PM

9. **Future Scheduling:** Next Meeting- October 20\textsuperscript{th} at 6:00pm in the Auditors room.

10. **Adjourn**- Commissioner Backer makes a motion to adjourn, Seconded by Supervisor Gaschke. All Aye. Motion Passes.