

Racial & Ethnic Equity Commission
Draft Minutes of Meeting
September 21, 2023, 6:00 pm Kenosha County Board Chambers

Committee Members Present: Brian Thomas, Brian Gonzales, Xavier Solis, Duane O’Keefe, Andy Berg, Elizabeth Garcia, Cortney Marshall

Excused: Justin Crosby

Others Present: Kelsey Hubeler

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order/Roll Call –Chairman Solis called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with roll call.

6:01 PM

2. Approval of Minutes- August 17, 2023. Motion to move minutes by County Board Supervisor Brian Thomas, Seconded by Commissioner Brian Gonzales.

Chairman Xavier Solis asked for questions. 1) County Board Supervisor Berg asked to remove item line 11. Future Scheduling. Commissioner Brian Gonzales second. Some discussion around why it was missed- **All Aye, Motion carried.** 2) County Board Supervisor Berg brought forward a motion regarding an agenda item be put on to vote for a new chair in regard to future scheduling. No second **Motion fails.** No further questions. **All Aye, Motion carried.**

6:05 PM

3. Citizens Comments – Comments limited to 3 minutes and up to 45 minutes. Comments made by:

Anthony Davis- Mentions that the commission has substantial information available to them. He has concerns about what the commission is going to do regarding concerns for people of color, women’s rights, education, and overcrowding of jails. Comments on the location change to the County Center and why do they want to keep the commission going.

Sabrina Landry- Doesn’t understand why the commission is meeting in the county when the people that are mostly affected can’t make it out. Agrees that the removal of the current chair should be on the agenda. Asks what is going to be done about what is going in the community.

Ivonne Bergyk –There doesn’t seem to be progress. It seems that findings are being ignored and the commission is attempting to dismantle the commission. Says if that is true, it is a waste of time and money. Asks about what is happening and how is the commission working together. Asks to lead the commission or a change in leadership as soon as possible.

Sue Grace Krokosz- Discusses DEI efforts, funding, and why a body like the Racial and Ethnic Equity Commission is important.

Andy Meyer- Mentions the Applebee's incident with Kenosha Police. Mentions another incident of police force while asking for a badge number. Asks the commission to look into both incidents. Also asks that any member that is a supporter of Moms for Liberty be removed from the commission as they are not supporters of equity.

Kathy Woods- Describes equity vs equality and her lived experience.

Helgeson- Gives an alternate description of equity. States that emails have been sent to the REEC with specific questions and they remain unanswered for months now. There is no transparency and seems that the current body is not willing to do the work. Asks that those individuals resign so that the work can continue.

6:21 PM

4. Subcommittee Reports-

County Board Supervisor Brian Thomas makes some comments on REEC history regarding the previous issues with quorum and attendance. Supervisor Andy Berg mentions out of order. Chairman Xavier Solis allows County Board Supervisor Brian Thomas to continue.

County Board Supervisor Andy Berg made a motion to adjourn. No second **motion fails**.

Law Enforcement Subcommittee- Vice Chairman Brian Gonzales says that they do have a full report but put it on hold due to conflicting schedules. They do have data that they received from the Sheriff's Department Data Analyst. Was told that reports presented to the Executive Committee need to be inclusive of all groups (housing, health, education, and law) so the commission has continued work to do. Mentions that data and reports are all from local resources. States that there is national data that is perceived as faulty due to the employee being fired. Commissioner Brian Gonzales states he is looking more into that and if the commission has been influenced by that in any way. County Board Supervisor Brian Thomas added that their reports will compare Kenosha County to National averages as well.

Education Subcommittee- Commissioner Elizabeth Garcia discussed trancies in school and how the numbers in some racial groups mirror juvenile court and adult court. County Board Supervisor Brian Thomas has been looking into who can influence and/or get funding to get buses to the schools that have the highest truancy rates. Also, what are other safe ways to get kids to school. For example, Sheridan Road is busy. They also looked into the Minority Future Teacher Programs. After discussing it, that program is designed for schools to internally refer students.

County Board Supervisor Andy Berg asks to speak, Chairman Xavier Solis denied. County Board Supervisor Andy Berg continued to speak.

Housing Subcommittee- Commissioner Courtney Marshall asked for an extension as they are still collecting and reviewing.

Health Subcommittee- Chairman Xavier Solis states that he is looking into legislation and disparities. Asks County Board Supervisor Andy Berg to participate in the health subcommittee, County Board Supervisor Andy Berg agrees.

6:49 PM

5. Resolution on Recognizing Native American Heritage Month: Chairman Xavier Solis gives an overview of the resolution. Asks to review and for the commissions support.

County Board Supervisor Andy Berg made a motion to remove the verbiage resolution and replace it with recommendation based on corporation counsels' advice. County Board Supervisor Andy Berg and Chairman Xavier Solis had a discussion regarding how to move forward. Chairman Xavier Solis states this is a resolution for the REEC, nothing else. No second, Motion **fails**.

Vice Chairman Brian Gonzales made a motion to pass the resolution. County Board Supervisor Brian Thomas second- **All Aye, Motion carriers**.

6:54 PM

6. Recommendation Addressing Disparities in Education in Kenosha County-Recommendation o expanding the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program to Kenosha County-

County Board Supervisor Brian Thomas made a motion to approve. Vice Chairman Brian Gonzales second. Chairman Xavier Solis asks for questions-

County Board Supervisor Berg questions why this resolution wasn't brought forth to the Education Subcommittee. Based on discussion, County Board Supervisor Andy Berg made a motion to bring this resolution to the Education Subcommittee. There is not a second, **Motion fails**.

County Board Supervisor Andy Berg questions where the marketing funds are coming from. Chairman Xavier Solis states that the school choice program has their own marketing materials. It is his belief that there shouldn't be a cost. County Board Supervisor Andy Berg makes a motion to make edits to the last BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED. Wants to ensure the verbiage states that this recommendation goes to the Executive Committee and supervisor board before it is presented to any state representatives, governor's office, and other legislative bodies. County Board Supervisor Brian Thomas second for discussion. Some discussion amongst the commission on the process and verbiage.

Vote:

Commissioner Duane O'Keefe- Nay
Commissioner Elizabeth Garcia- Nay
County Board Supervisor Brian Thomas- Nay
County Board Supervisor Andy Berg- Aye
Vice Chairman Brian Gonzales- Nay
Chairman Xavier Solis- Nay
Commissioner Courtney Marshall- Nay

Motioned Denied.

County Board Supervisor Andy Berg questions why they are focusing on a program that focuses mainly on KUSD based on the KUSD Discard Report Card. States he does not support because of that and the fact that it is still unclear if marketing cost is \$0. County Board Supervisor Brian Thomas shares why they shared the KUSD district report card. Also comments that he would support this recommendation.

Vote:

Commissioner Duane O'Keefe- Aye
Commissioner Elizabeth Garcia- Aye
County Board Supervisor Brian Thomas- Aye
County Board Supervisor Andy Berg- Nay
Vice Chairman Brian Gonzales- Aye
Chairman Xavier Solis- Aye
Commissioner Courtney Marshall- Aye

Motion Passes

7:12PM

7. Future Scheduling: October 19th at 6:00pm at Kenosha County Center.

7:28 PM

8. Adjourn- County Board Supervisor Brian Thomas makes a motion to adjourn, Vice Chairman Brian Gonzales seconded.

Motion carries- meeting adjourned.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Kelsey Hubeler**