



**JOINT COMMISSION ON RACIAL JUSTICE AND
EQUITY
SPECIAL MEETING OF STEERING COMMITTEE**



**MINUTES
Tuesday, October 3, 2023
12:00pm**

Location: Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce
403 NE Jefferson St. Peoria, IL 61602
(Additional parking is available across the street from the chamber)

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| Members Present: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Timothy Bertschy, Co-Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mary Peterson, Co-Chair |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andre Allen, City Council Liaison | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chuck Mitchell |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Member Present | <input type="checkbox"/> Angela Bolden | <input type="checkbox"/> Mike Murphy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member Absent | <input type="checkbox"/> Charles Brown | <input type="checkbox"/> Rasheedah Na'Allah |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Brandy Bryant, County Board Liaison | <input type="checkbox"/> Pam Orear |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mary Chapai | <input type="checkbox"/> Jonathan Wright |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Dunigan | <input type="checkbox"/> Angela Young |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Angela Green | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peter Avery |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joshua Gunn | <input type="checkbox"/> Tyrone Anthony "Tony" Smith |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Julia Issa-Ghantous | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heather McMeekan |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Johnson | <input type="checkbox"/> Scott Sorrel, County Ex-Officio |
| Others Present: | <input type="checkbox"/> Melodi Green | <input type="checkbox"/> Patrick Urich, City Ex-Officio |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brittany Graves |

1. Call to Order

Co-Chair Bertschy called the meeting to order at 12:41pm

2. Approval of Minutes:

- a. Minutes of August 2023. There was no September meeting. Heather McMeekan moved to approve Minutes. Second by Mary Chapai. Motion approved by all.

3. Appointments:

- a. Subcommittee Applicants- Nominating Committee- Jim Johnson informed committee of the new applicants. There were three applicants that joined this past month: **Megan Scott- Justice, Anu Gokhale- Economic Development and Jobs, and Brook Ferrero- Justice**. Motion to approve made by Julia Issa- Ghantous, second by Andre Allen. Approved by all.

Informational Items and Reports

- a. **New Commissioners Onboarding Process-** Chuck Mitchell presented new onboarding procedures, a handout was passed out with proposed new onboarding procedures. Peter Avery mentioned adding FOIA training to the procedures. A discussion broke out about the details of the new proposed onboarding procedures. From the discussion a proposed idea of a Joint Commission on Racial Justice and Equity informational monthly meeting would be beneficial to new commissioners to get a better understanding of the commission before they make a commitment to join. It was stated by several steering committee members that the more information the new commissioners have the better, so that expectations are managed, and new commissioners remain active and involved on their assigned subcommittees. Angela Green indicated that an Offboarding Rules document was issued at the end of last year that indicated how to notify and remove members that either have been non-responsive or inactive.
- b. **Subcommittee Liaisons Reports-** Peter Avery handed out a report (see attached) on what the Economic Development and Jobs Subcommittee are currently working on and indicated that sever activities have overlap with other subcommittees such as Brownfield Assessment and Travel Assistance Program. Co-Chair Bertschy reported on what the Justice Subcommittee is focused on, which is youth violence prevention. Heather McMeekan spoke about issues with the IT subcommittee with not having a quorum and what they are currently working on. Julia Issa- Ghantous reported on concerns from the Health Subcommittee about meeting on zoom due to lack of attendance, they are also working with another program involving the Peoria County Health Department. Jim Johnson reported on what the Environmental Subcommittee is working on such as lead, landlords, and attendance. Co-Chair Peterson reported on behalf of the Transportation Subcommittee, they would like to collaborate with the Economic Development and Jobs Subcommittee on their current work. As well as address concerns with Western Ave. Co-Chair Bertschy spoke on the goals of the Child and Youth Development Subcommittee.
- c. **Community Engagement Forums-** Discussions on having these on a quarterly or annual basis was not concluded. Some ideas on the content of these forums, community feedback, and accessibility to critical communities were presented.

4. Discussion

- a. **Charter Amendments-** Co-Chair Bertschy presented proposed new amendments to The Joint Commission Charter. A discussion was had about the best way to pass the proposed new amendments. From the discussion, several edits were proposed by Steering Committee members (e.g., what determines super majority; Subcommittee Co-Chair appointment from Steering Committee; General Member numbers). There was an agreement that the Subcommittees establish a list of current active members so that we have an accurate number of the entire Joint Commission. When it's time to vote on the Charter Amendments there will be an accurate and concise number of commissioners moving forward.

5. **Recommendations**

- **Charter Amendments-** The steering committee recommends that The Joint Commission on Racial Justice and Equity adopt new Charter amendments. Motion to vote on new charter amendments with all agreed upon edits made by Heather McMeekan. Second by Julia Issa- Ghantous. Approved by all. Andre Allen gave dates for the county board and city council meetings on December 12th for City and December 14th for County. Edited Charter amendments will be voted on by the entire Joint Commission on Racial Justice and Equity at upcoming Annual Commission meeting on November 15th. If the vote passes (by super majority), the commission will send new Charter Amendments to the City Council and County Board for approval and adaptation effective January 2024.

6. **New Business**

- Upcoming Annual Joint Commission Meeting November, 15, 2023 at 6pm at the Riverfront Museum. Motion moved to have the meeting by Joshua Gunn. Second by Angela Green. Approved by all. Co-Chair Bertschy proposed to change the date and time of the Steering Committee Meetings. Andre Allen suggested that Brittany Graves send out calendar invites for Steering Committee Meetings going forward. Brittany Graves agreed to take on that task. Steering Committee Meeting will still be held October 19, 2023, at 6pm, location TBD.

7. **Adjournment**

- Motion to adjourn by Heather McMeekan. Second by Julia Issa-Ghantous. Approved by all. Meeting adjourned at 1:49pm

Minutes Prepared By:

Brittany Graves, HR Diversity, Equity, and Co Inclusion Generalist (Peoria County)