

MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
March 23, 2023

Members Present: Gabe Nudo, Erin Decker, Amanda Nedweski, Zach Rodriguez, Brian Thomas, Mark Nordigian, Terry Rose, Aaron Karow

Excused:

Absent:

YIG: Present: Enze Price, Alec Schires

YIG Absent:

Others Present: Joseph Cardamone, Bashaw, Sheriff Zoerner, John Franco, Elizabeth Garcia

6:03 PM

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Nudo

6:05 PM

2. Presentation by Dan Bahr with Wisconsin Counties Association: Tax Reform Bill is still ongoing and a priority. Talks are ongoing, formula will change, more money for us. Speaking with other associations. Transformational- big change for local governments. Shared Revenue. How likely is it to go forward? The more that get on board, the higher the probability.

Wisconsin State Budget- Governor has introduced the budget. Joint Finance Committee 12 R 4 Dem. R has control of senate and assembly. Should sign before July 1st. Positive things for Counties in the budget. Transportation issues is a priority for him. Mental health is a big issue that the association is prioritizing. Ear Marks? Working on that with members of congressional delegation 6R -house majority. Congregationally directed spending. Bryan Steil is helping secure money to protect Racine Harbor (\$3.4 mil)

Geertsen- ROD split- does WCA have a track of that? Will get back to him on how many resolutions have been received. Clean Water related. WCA-The more resolutions that come, the more likely there will be Legislative Action

Nedweski-Waukesha day is April 26th – WCA Road Show for anyone that would like to attend Joint Finance.

6:16 PM

3. Citizens Comments:

Barb Griffin- 2007 81st St: Speaking on behalf of the appts for positions to be considered for REEC. She feels they both have the best interest of the Counties. She suggests and encourages the County Board members to gratify their appts

Howard Moon-7817 7th Ave: Believes the two new appointments are not the best fit for the job. He believes the entire Commission needs to start fresh with all new members. This would allow the community a breath of relief.

Tonya McLean-6020 18th Ave She is in opposition of the two new appointments. She was on the work group that helped establish this Commission.

Veronica King 5518 34th Ave: The Racial and Ethnic Equity Commission needs more diversity on it; it needs individuals that not only can read results of data, but have a strong understanding of how the data was gathered/analyzed/coded, the results and how to interpret them. There are 4 colleges in this

town that can bring their expertise to this Commission and assist. \$3 mil set aside for city and county government to apply for the grant for reducing racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system.

Lamar Madison 84 1066th St.- The two new appointees are Hispanic, they are sell outs. If they are not voted in, the County Board is racist. He would like to see them voted in because they deserve equal opportunity.

Joel Trudell-8201 4th Ave- Opposes both nominations of REEC appointees and explains his feelings why. Urges the Committee not to vote for the two new appointees.

Pamela-7327 11th Ave- She supports the nominees and has spoken extensively with Gonzalez and Solis. They bring great experience to these positions.

Sabrina landry 4427 7th ave- She is in opposition of the two nominations. Neither nominee will be helpful to the Racial and Ethnic Equity Commission. People in other Counties are scared to come to Kenosha because of how racist they view Kenosha. She would like Kenosha to feel safe for everyone and to feel welcome. These appointments do the opposite of this.

Mike Santorol 66th St. He was in the military and had to kill people, too, in the line of duty, but it does not make him a bad person. To categorize someone as a killer is wrong, he was in the line of duty. Was exonerated in the line of duty. Urges people to read Gonzalez's book as he explains. He asks the board to follow through and approve their appointments. Left and right have to come together to unite the County to work together.

Cal Miller 4601 36th Ave- Walks the city streets to and from work/bus stops. Other citizens are fearful of being on the streets regardless of race. As the appointments were made public, the fear increased in the community. Urges the Committee to listen to the people on the streets.

2002 53rd St. Tyler Fleff- Commission recommended appointing a Black Woman. He does not know Attorney Solis and has never met him in the Community. He would like to speak with the Committee Members that were appointed a year ago. He has not heard anything on the promise to look into the 2020 riots. He would like to know Never Stop Media- delving into the curfew of the riots, why businesses were burned down while police protected the Courthouse and not the businesses. He would like an update on where the investigation with the 2020 riots are. 262 344 4664

Lori Hopkins 102nd Street- Thanks past and current members of the REEC. In opposition of the two new appointments of REEC. She questions why CE Kerkman chose these two members in particular when 15 other people applied and have been involved with Racial and Ethnic Equity work when the two chosen have not. Jerry Gulley's vision for this Commission has not been fulfilled.

Amanda Becker 1807 81st St.- She is opposed to the two nominations to REEC. At a minimum, the nominations need to recognize that Racism is a public health crisis. It is bad business and unproductive to put people on a Commission that does not believe in the Commissions mission. She urges the Committee to reject the appointees tonight.

Lydia Spotsman- She hoped the report from last month would be sent back to the REEC for them to do a deeper dive into the data. She is concerned with the two REEC appointments, urges not to move forward.

Roxanne t- As a community, we did vote Sam K in and should respect her choices, give these two new appointees a chance, back her judgement and we might be pleasantly surprised. Kenosha has grown exponentially. Housing crisis because so many people want to live here.

Derrell Greene- 6730 100th Ave- The Commission did hold listening sessions in the Western part of the county, 3 people showed up. The Commission does not need anymore distractors. The mission of the Commission was Law Enforcement, Justice, Housing, Mental Health, Education. There needs to be people that are serious about the Commission, not distractors.

Kathryn Woods 3908 51st Ave- Is in favor of the new appointees. Everyone has sin and everyone has skeletons.

Andy Berg- 3905 31st Ave- Ethics- Anti Semantic Flyers dropped in the community represented by a County Board Supervisor and got the charges dropped. One County Board Supervisor does not live in this district. 4 individuals that are about to vote tonight without Ethics.

Gale Clark Taylor 7624 18th Ave- She attended a listening session at the job center. She is afraid these appointments will be an empty promise. The positions left open an extremely long time and believes these nominations are designed to cripple the Commission further and to destroy the Commission. She urges the Committee to turn this around and nominate people that truly believe Racism is a public crisis.

7:05 PM

4. Chair, Supervisor Comments: The chair clarifies that there is an active investigation into the 2020 riots and they are looking into them. No Supervisor Comments

7:07 PM

5. Communications- None

7:07 PM

6. Approval of Minutes- **Vice Chair Decker made a motion to approve. Seconded by Supervisor Rodriguez. All aye. YIG Aye. Motion passes.**

7:08 PM

7. Presentation by Racial and Ethnic Equity Commission: Commissioner Elizabeth Garcia explains the Commission does not have enough members to vote and are at a standstill until it is fully staffed. The listening session in February had a great turn out and they are excited to move forward with a full Commission.

Supervisor Nedweski requests a highlight of the Listening Session

Garcia- affordability- people are being told they cannot apply for section 8 housing. Mold in senior citizens housing. She tried to report to HUD but could not because she was not a tenant and would like to look into who can make these complaints on behalf of citizens in fear of retaliation. Citizens running into barriers when looking into housing, they just need a little help. Affordable housing is a big issue. Supervisor Nedweski would like to support the Commission in this topic. Supervisor Thomas introduces the 4 Commission members. Vice Chair Decker thanks Commissioner Garcia for her back to back presentations. Chairman Nudo asks when they will be able to come back to notify the Commission. She states that as soon as the Commission was fully staffed, they could give a better update. Supervisor Gaschke would like to thank Elizabeth for giving the reports and for her contributions. He also would like to clarify, legally there were not enough members to take a vote. There are not enough people to vote legally, they were only able to have informal discussions.

7:20 PM

8. Resolution to Appoint Brian Gonzales to serve on the Racial and Ethnic Equity Commission: Tami Rongstad Chief of Staff to Kenosha County Executive Samantha Kerkman presents the resolution.

Supervisor Rodriguez made a motion to approve. Seconded by Supervisor Nedweski.

Supervisor Rodriguez spoke with Mr. Gonzales, who is unable to attend tonight as he is at a conference. Mr. Gonzales has a desire to support his community as evidenced by his 25 years in Law Enforcement. Supervisor Rose speaks in opposition to Mr. Gonzales' appointment. Supervisor Gaschke encourages the Committee to recognize that this is a well-known and high-profile appointment that has drawn an incredible amount of feedback. He would like this tabled until Mr. Gonzales can be present. Supervisor Nedweski questions Supervisor Rose to read the entire book written by Mr. Gonzales. Supervisor

Nedweski encourages the Committees to reach out to the appointees before the meeting as they are not required to show up at the meetings. Vice Chair Decker has read the entire book and it has not changed her opinion. She believes he is qualified for the position on the Commission. Vice Chair Decker supports Mr. Gonzales' appointment. Supervisor Nedweski supports and speaks highly of Mr. Gonzales. His knowledge and skills will be crucial for the REEC. Supervisor Thomas advised the Committee that Mr. Gonzales started attending REEC meetings last year before he applied to the REEC. Supervisor Rose states the City paid over 2 million dollars over the incident involving Mr. Gonzales. He feels the Committee can do better. Supervisor Bashaw speaks highly and in support of Mr. Gonzales. Supervisor Stocker encourages people to sit down with the DA's office if

YIG – Enze No, Price No

Nudo Yes

Decker Yes

Rodriguez yes

Thomas yes

Nordigian yes

Karow yes

Nedweski yes

Rose No

Vote 7-1 passes.

7:07 PM

9. Resolution to Appoint Xavier Solis to serve on the Racial and Ethnic Equity Commission: Tami Rongstad Chief of Staff to Kenosha County Executive Samantha Kerkman presents the resolution. Xavier Solis answers questions from the Committee. Supervisor Rodriguez asks Mr. Solis to speak about his childhood. He has lived in Kenosha since he was 15 and did not graduate High School, he worked full time and obtained his HSED. He is the first in his family to have gone to college. He owns a firm in Kenosha County, he practices Family, Immigration and Criminal Defense. He takes State Public Defender Cases and has worked as a Guardian ad Litem to serve the community. Graduated from UW-Parkside while working part time and full time, raising three children. Went on to Law School in Illinois part time, while working full time. Took the Metra to Chicago. Supervisor Rodriguez believes Attorney Solis is highly qualified for the REEC vacancy and will support this nomination. **Vice Chair Decker made a motion to approve, Seconded by Supervisor Rose.**

Xavier Solis speaks about his passion regarding the serving the community, his upbringing, his values and beliefs, and how he's personally been affected by Racism.

YIG – Schires No, Price No

Nudo Yes

Decker Yes

Rodriguez yes

Thomas yes

Nordigian yes

Karow yes

Nedweski yes

Rose Yes

All Aye. Motion Passes.

8:31 PM

10. Resolution Recognizing May 2023 As "National Military Appreciation Month"-Vice Chair Decker makes a motion to approve. Seconded by Supervisor Nedweski. Supervisor Rodriguez thanks all the Veterans for their Service to our Country. All Aye. Motion Approved.

8:32 PM

11. Resolution Recognizing May 2023 As "National Foster Care Month"- Vice Chair Decker makes a motion to approve. Seconded by Supervisor Rodriguez. All Aye Motion Passes.

8:34 PM

12. Identification of issues for Future Discussion- April 27th at 6:00 PM. 1. April 25th will be a Committee of the Whole meeting- tour of Job Center. 2. Next Tuesday at 6:30 PM meeting.

8:34 PM

13. Adjourn: **Supervisor Decker made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Rodriguez. All Aye. YIG Aye. Motion Carried**

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Peralta
Corporation Counsel