

City of Gainesville

*City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601*



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 17, 2008

2:00 PM

City Hall, Room 16

Equal Opportunity Committee

*Commissioner Craig Lowe, Chair
Commissioner Jack Donovan, Member*

Persons with disabilities who require assistance to participate in this meeting are requested to notify the Office of Equal Opportunity at 334-5051 or call the TDD phone line at 334-2069 at least two business days in advance.

CALL TO ORDER - 2:07 PM

ROLL CALL

Present: Craig Lowe and Jack Donovan

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted with the modification of moving item 070813 to third item on the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

070811. Equal Opportunity Committee (EOC) Minutes (B)

RECOMMENDATION *The EOC approve the minutes of 12/18/07 as circulated.*

Approved as Recommended

DISCUSSION OF PENDING REFERRALS

070159. Preference (tie-breaker) Given to City Contractors Who Provide Domestic Partner Benefits (NB)

Chair Craig Lowe recognized staff EO Director Jimmie Williams, Finance Director Mark Benton, Attorney Charlie Hauck, and Assistant City Manager Fred Murry who spoke to the matter.

Chair Lowe gave a brief report on his conversations with a variety of other elected officials in many cities from different states. Most cities use a tie breaker preference, bonus points or a mandated system. The Committee felt that a mandate would limit Gainesville contractors to much and that the incentive route comparable to Broward County might be the most suitable for Gainesville to follow.

The Equal Opportunity Committee made the following recommendations:

1) staff was asked to further investigate and provide information on any Broward conflicts; 2) identify any jurisdictions which are requiring in order to obtain this preference that it be health benefits provided to domestic partners; 3) find out what impact this matter may have on small businesses; and 4) prepare a matrix showing what items are prohibited.

RECOMMENDATION *The Equal Opportunity Committee: 1) hear a report from Comm. Lowe on information obtained from elected officials in*

other cities as it relates to this matter; and 2) take whatever action deemed appropriate.

Continued

070241. Definition of Family Implications of Domestic Partner Registry (B)

Chair Lowe recognized staff EO Director Jimmie Williams, Block Grant Management and Review Manager Jim Hencin, Assistant City Manager Fred Murry, Housing Manager Jacquelin Richardson, Attorney Charlie Hauck, Planning and Development Director Erik Bredfeldt, and Building Official Doug Murdock who spoke to the matter.

Chair Lowe and Comm. Donovan acknowledged work done on matrix and plans to review all code recommendations, changes, and comments with Municode before the next meeting in February.

The Equal Opportunity Committee made the following recommendations:

1) staff take a closer look at landlord ordinance to see if there are additional changes to be made; and 2) Comm. Lowe asked that backup from Risk Management be present at the next meeting.

RECOMMENDATION *The Equal Opportunity Committee: 1) continue discussion of incorporating "domestic partner" into City codes and develop ways to achieve the highest level of equality for employees; and 2) take whatever action deemed appropriate.*

Continued

070716. GRU Utility Rates Referral (NB)

Chair Lowe recognized staff Assistant City Manager Fred Murry, EO Director Jimmie Williams, and GRU Managing Utility Analyst Dr. Heidi Lannon who spoke to the matter.

The Committee discussed the issue of GRU's rate structure to see if there is evidence of discriminatory intent and made the following recommendation:

1) GRU staff to inquire with other municipal utilities (electric, water/water waste water, and natural gas) to obtain data to perform a quadratic analysis using family size, energy usage, and income level; 2) EO staff to inquire with Gainesville's Community Action Agency to obtain data; and 3) receive whatever information that deems relevant to help with comparisons.

RECOMMENDATION

GRU staff on data obtained from other municipal utilities (electric, water/wastewater, and natural gas) to perform a quadratic analysis using family size, energy usage, and income level; 2) hear a report from EO staff on data obtained from Gainesville's Community Action Agency; 3) and continue discussion of information relevant to help with comparisons and take whatever action deemed appropriate.

Continued

MEMBER COMMENT

CITIZEN COMMENT

NEW BUSINESS

070813. EO Policy 35 (B)

Chair Lowe recognized staff EO Director Jimmie Williams and Attorney Charlie Hauck who spoke to the matter.

The committee made the following recommendations:

1) Eliminate item I from Policy 35 because it is already noted in other aspects of the policy and leave the rest of the policy as is; and 2) request approval from the Commission to authorize the City Attorney draft and the Clerk of the Commission advertise an ordinance changing EO policy to become consistent with the Charter.

RECOMMENDATION *The Equal Opportunity Committee: 1) hear a presentation from staff on EO Policy 35; and 2) take whatever action deemed appropriate.*

Approved as Recommended

NEXT MEETING DATE - March 20, 2008 at 1:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT - 3:48 PM