

## Observer Report Form

**Equity and Empowerment Commission**

**Date:** March 19,2019

**Observer:** Sue Calder

**Commissioners Present:** Grover, Lyons, Holmes, de Lara, Eberhard, Dillard, Ibanez

**Staff Present:** K. Richardson, P. Maritnez, NU intern. (Ephraim was still recovering from a concussion.)

**Media Present:** none

**Meeting Began:** 6:10pm

**Meeting Ended:** 8:40pm

**No. Of Citizens in Attendance:** One.

**Public Comment:** Person stated that climate change is an equity issue.

**Social Services Evaluation Presentation:** Kimberly Richardson explained that since social services was ranked highest by citizens (but not included in staff's list), it was placed back on the issues of importance and she has been assigned to complete a comprehensive review of what the city does, how effective it is doing so with the goal of developing equity policies for all city operations. She has a core group (4) who will be trained on the 22<sup>nd</sup>; guidance was received for this from a professor at UIC; they will then lead their departments. A report is due in July. It was pointed out that Council needs to be educated on what equity is and had to reset its goals to include equity (it was dropped from the original goals).

**Discussion on Equity Framework and Terms:** Per the minutes from the previous meeting, The Framework and terms need to be revised so that it can be more in layman's language (I had to look up what "cis-gender" meant - one of the terms included.) The framework has a laundry list of issues that need to be "equitable" but the commission is focusing on "racial equity." It was agreed that an explanation of why that is the focus should be at the front of the document.

**Announcement:** On April 6 there will be an Evanston Interfaith Climate Action meeting at Garret. Staff is developing language so that the meeting will recommend a policy on climate change.