

Equal Opportunities:

2.44.010 - Purpose.

It is the goal of the city of Whitewater to be a welcoming, affirming and inclusive community. It is the intent of the city that no person be denied the **equal** protection of the laws; nor shall any person be denied the enjoyment of his, her or their civil rights or be discriminated against because of their actual or perceived characteristics of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual identity or any other identity.

The **commission** has been created to improve the quality of life in Whitewater by the elimination of racism and other forms of discrimination in the Whitewater community. The purpose of the **commission** is to take action, study, analyze and recommend solutions with respect to the major social, economic and cultural problems that affect people residing or working within the city, including discrimination in housing, education, employment and public accommodations and facilities on the basis of sex, race, color, sexual orientation, national origin, gender (or gender identity), or marital status of the person maintaining a household, lawful source of income, age or ancestry and the inciting of class, race or religious hatred and prejudice.

- **2.44.020 - Membership and officers.**

The **equal opportunities commission** shall consist of seven members composed of five or six citizen members who shall be appointed under the procedure set forth in Whitewater Municipal Code Section [2.12.011](#), and at least one but not more than two city council members. The citizen members shall be residents of the city of Whitewater, residents of the Whitewater United School District or employed in the city of Whitewater.

Members of the **commission** shall have personal or professional experience in matters related to eliminating racial or other forms of discrimination.

Initially, after passage of this chapter, two citizen members shall be appointed for one-year terms, two citizen members shall be appointed for two-year terms and two citizen members shall be appointed for three-year terms. Thereafter, citizen members serve three-year terms. City council appointed members shall serve one-year terms.

(Ord. No. 2007A, § 1, 8-18-2020)

- **2.44.030 - Duties and powers.**

The **commission** shall perform the following duties and exercise the following powers:

Facilitate compliance with federal, state and local laws relating to **equal opportunities** in education, employment, housing and recreation through informational programs.

Examine all aspects of relations between races and ethnic groups fairly and objectively, and foster awareness, understanding and appreciation of racial and ethnic diversity in the community.

Identify problems of racism and other forms of discrimination in the community and city services and recommend solutions and positive courses of action to the general community and to the city council and city manager.

Recommend to the city council and the city manager the enactment of such ordinances or other action, including assignment of staff, as it deems necessary to ensure all city residents the right to **equal opportunity** in housing, employment, public accommodations and education.

Initiate such public programs and studies and promote such privately sponsored programs and studies as will aid in accomplishing the **commission's** purposes and duties. Provide forums for dialogue on racism to improve relations.

Conduct public hearings in accordance with the ordinances of the city and the **commission's** rules of procedure.

Hear grievances filed under [2.44.060](#).

- **2.44.040 - Meetings.**

Meetings of the **commission** shall be held on dates determined by the **commission**.

Special meetings shall be held at the location designated in the notice of the meeting. Special meetings may be called by the **commission** chair or by written request of three members.

Public notice of all meetings of the **commission** shall be given in accordance with the open meetings law of the state of Wisconsin.

(Ord. No. 2007A, § 1, 8-18-2020)

- **2.44.050 - Officers and duties.**

The **equal opportunities commission** shall select a chair, vice-chair and secretary at the first meeting of the **commission** each year. The chair shall preside over all meetings of the **commission**. The vice-chair shall preside over the meetings in the chair's absence. In the absence of both the chair and vice-chair, a chair pro tem shall be chosen from those present and shall preside. The secretary shall record the minutes of each meeting and shall transmit a written copy of the minutes and the records of the **commission** to the city clerk. The city clerk shall be the custodian of the records of the **commission**.

Comm. Involvement and Cable TV:

Mission:

Advise the city of Whitewater on coordinated **community** outreach **and** engagement activities. Its goals are to provide advice on priorities, policies **and** strategies related to equitable civic engagement **and** public participation in city decision making processes. This shall include the review of initiatives, strategies **and** proposals brought forth by the city as well as ones identified by the commission.

The commission shall attempt to develop maximum **community involvement** in the use of **cable** television **and** other media for cultural, educational, health, social service, civic, **community**, **and** other nonprofit purposes **and** will assist in the administration of the public access channel in the city of Whitewater.

The commission shall also provide feedback in the development of city departments' **community involvement** plans with focus on implementing more equitable engagement strategies **and** identifying new ways to increase civic participation in city processes. This shall include assisting in the development **and** review of the city of Whitewater Comprehensive **Community** Engagement Plan.

This commission shall also be **involved** in the recruitment of the public relations **and** **communication** manager position.