

CITY OF BARRE
PUBLIC BODY DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Committee/board: Diversity and Equity Committee

Date of meeting: Monday, March 15, 6:15 PM

Location of meeting: Zoom Videoconference with Call-in Option

Board/committee members in attendance:

- Ellen Kaye
- Danielle Owczarski
- William Toborg
- Joelen Mulvaney
- Marichel Vaught
- Christopher Roberts

Others in attendance:

- Steve Mackenzie (City Manager)

Topic(s) Discussed

1. Call to order at 6:15 PM.
2. Adjustments to the Agenda.
 - a. Next time change language from “sub-committee” to “working groups”
3. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting (3/1/2021)
 - a. Ellen: Strike out section v under old business.
4. Old Business:
 - a. Working Group Reports
 - b. Diversity & Equity Committee Education Project
 - i. Add disability awareness as a topic to collaborate with ADA Committee. Marichel meeting with ADA Committee this Thurs and will get more specific presentation topic
 - ii. Change topic phrasing on project sheet to questions to make less broad and allow for more engagement
 - iii. Chris- In terms of the Food Insecurity piece, he is thinking of cross referencing with the Animal and Fowl Task Force re: raising chickens as that is a food accessibility/equity issue

Vote on Education Project outline - create a working title

 - i. Move adoption as education project document by William
 - ii. Friendly amendment by Ellen.
 1. William and Danielle accept
 2. All in favor
- c. Vote on forwarding final version of Equity Assessment Tool - Danielle
 - i. Ellen moves to approve the Equity Assessment Tool for presentation to the City Council with the understanding that it may need to be amended and refined from time to time and that we offer it to City Council as a tool to evaluate budgets and policies regarding equity impacts.
 1. Marichel seconds it.

2. All in favor.
 - ii. Ellen had a process question - what should we work on now?
 1. We will work on using the equity tool at the next meeting.
 2. Discussion on whether we should review the housing ordinance 7-20 or the speeding initiative?
 - a. The team will work on the speeding initiative
 - iii. Presenting the packet for the City Council - presenting on the 23rd or 30th
 1. Joelen - Mission Statement and Definitions
 2. Danielle - Equity Assessment Tool
 3. Ellen - Education Project Document
 4. Ellen - reporting on the VLCT
5. New Business:
- a. Report on VLCT equity meeting – Ellen
 - i. About 15 people attended the meeting. Chaired by a member of VLCT Board, but will not be chairing anymore b/c she lost in a recount. They did vote on a co-chair - from the committee - Selectboard Member from Hartford - Rachel Edens
 - ii. Four womyn of color on the committee
 - iii. People from all over the state including Elaine Wang (from Barre Town)
 - iv. Spent some part of the meeting introducing and discussing their interest in the committee
 - v. Want it to be action focused
 - vi. Clear thought about people doing their homework on racism and racial inequality and not relying on the BIPOC members of the board to educate them.
 - vii. Meetings are on Mondays at 1PM in the afternoon
 - viii. Joelen and Danielle volunteered to be proxies if needed
 - ix. Good meeting overall
 - b. Equity Assessment Tool exercise – How to use the tool – Danielle/Ellen
 - i. Will work on this next week
 - c. More COVID messages - Chief Brent will add info to the resources. Not sure if the other messages are active yet.
 - d. Uyghur – William
 - i. Moved to future meeting
 - e. Reaction/response to Barre Area Development presentation/ideas for collaboration
 - i. Moved to future meeting
6. Set next meeting Date: Monday, March 22, 2021 at 6:15PM -
- a. Equity Assessment Tool Exercise - communicate to Chris - Ellen will send email.
7. Round Table
- a. Everyone was ready to have dinner!
8. Adjourned at 7:43 PM.

Action items

1. **Ellen** will send email to Chris to catch him up on the plan for the meeting with City Council.

2. **All** - work on running the speed enforcement initiative through the Equity Assessment Tool.

1) Motion: Move to adopt minutes as amended.

Mover/Second: William/Marichel

Result of vote: All in favor

2) Motion: Move adoption of the education project document.

Friendly Amendment: Update the language.

Mover/Amendment/Second: William/Ellen/Danielle

Result of vote: All in favor

3) Motion: Move to approve the Equity Assessment Tool for presentation to the City Council with the understanding that it may need to be amended and refined from time to time and that we offer it to City Council as a tool to evaluate budgets and policies regarding equity impacts.

Mover/Second: Ellen/Marichel

Result of vote: All in favor

Meeting adjourned:

Mover/Second: William/Marichel

Time: 7:43 PM

Next meeting date/time/location: Monday, at PM via Zoom



Danielle Owczarski