

**CITY OF BARRE**  
**PUBLIC BODY DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

**Committee/board:** Diversity and Equity Committee

**Date of meeting:** Monday, April 19, 6:00 PM

**Location of meeting:** Zoom Video Conference with Call-in Option

**Board/committee members in attendance:**

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

**Board/committee members absent:**

- Ellen Kaye

**Others in attendance:**

- Howard Weiss-Tisman (very briefly)

**Topic(s) Discussed**

1. Call to order at 6 PM.
2. Adjustments to the Agenda.
  - a. William asked to do presentation on the Uyghurs. Will do at the end of the agenda.
3. Approval of Minutes from 3/15/2021 and 3/29/2021
  - a. Marichel made a motion to postpone approval of minutes until next meeting, William seconded, all in favor.
4. Visitors and Communications
  - a. None
5. Old Business:
  - a. None
6. New Business:
  - a. Evaluation/reflection of committee process, progress and next steps
    - i. What has gone well/what could be better
    - ii. This discussion has been tabled until next meeting
7. Set next meeting Date: Monday, May 3 at 6 pm
8. William gave his presentation on the Uyghurs. Presentation is pasted below from the chat box:  
“<https://enduyghurforcedlabour.org/brands/>  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/08/business/economy/china-solar-companies-forced-labor-xinjiang.html>  
[https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global-opinions/think-twice-about-your-investment-portfolio-it-likely-undermines-human-rights-in-china/2019/04/17/a981b85a-6125-11e9-bfad-36a7eb36cb60\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global-opinions/think-twice-about-your-investment-portfolio-it-likely-undermines-human-rights-in-china/2019/04/17/a981b85a-6125-11e9-bfad-36a7eb36cb60_story.html)  
<https://www.aspi.org.au/report/uyghurs-sale>

This includes a list of 82 companies reported to use forced Uyghur labor  
The Uyghur people are an ethnic group of combined Mongolian and Turkic descent distinct from the ethnic Chinese. The group lives mostly in what is now the Xinjiang province of China but has historically passed between countries, including Mongolia. It was conquered by China in 1949.

China has begun a policy of placing the Uighur people in re-education camps, forcing them to speak in Chinese rather than their native tongue and has employed a forced sterilization and abortion program among Uighur women

The United States State Department has declared it a genocide, as have the Parliaments of Canada and the Netherlands

<https://www.nationalreview.com/2020/09/chinas-horrifying-war-on-uyghur-women/>

The policy of the Chinese government has been furthered by American companies who have sold and in some cases installed the surveillance equipment being used to subdue the Uyghur people. Other companies have made use of the forced labor of the Uyghurs.

At the end of the latest Disney movie, Mulan, the producers thanked the provincial government that is threatening the Uyghurs. 84% of cotton goods produced in China, including face masks, are produced in Xinjiang province and are thus associated with the genocide.

The technology was designed by Huawei and other technology companies allowing for the mass surveillance of the Uyghur people.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?>

9. Round Table
  - a. No comments
10. Adjourned at 6:31 PM.

#### **Action items**

1. Chris will look into legality of requiring representation of marginalized groups on committee

**1) Motion:** Move to adopt minutes at next meeting.

**Mover/Secunder:** Marichel/William

**Result of vote:** All in favor

**Meeting adjourned:** 6:31 pm

**Mover/Secunder:** Marichel/William

**Time:** 6:31 PM

**Next meeting date/time/location:** Monday, May 3 at 6 PM via Zoom



Danielle Owczarski

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marichel Vaught', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marichel Vaught