

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

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

**Date of meeting:** Monday, February 15, 2021, 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

**Board/committee members absent:**

- none

**Others in attendance:**

- Steve Mackenzie (City Manager)
- Mary Ellen Simmon - Assistant Superintendent of Instruction
- Cody Morrison - Executive Director Barre Area Development, Inc.

**Topic(s) Discussed**

1. Call to order at 6:16 PM.
2. Adjustments to the Agenda.
  - a. None.
3. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting
  - a. No changes.
  - b. Welcome to Cody and MaryEllen - both introduced themselves.
4. Old Business:
  - a. Statement from the Committee condemning the violence in Washington DC on January 6, 2021 - Chris
    - i. Chris wants to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to provide their feedback on the statement he drafted on behalf of the D&E Committee
    - ii. Joelen - Mayor said that City Council put out a statement
      1. This statement will be provided to the council.
      2. Chris read the statement to the group and the group provided feedback on the statement.
      3. Chris will read the statement to the City Council on February 16, 2021.
      4. The committee voted on Chris's statement.
  - b. Sub-committee reports
    - i. Note that committee members will bring these items up when they have progress to report for the agenda.

- c. Mission statement & definitions
  - i. The committee discussed the language in the mission statement
- 5. New Business:
  - a. Cody Morrison, Executive Director Barre Area Development, Inc.
    - i. Working to bring new people to the community and looking to help people and businesses in Barre City
    - ii. Danielle provided information to Cody on the Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility to share with Barre City businesses
    - iii. MaryEllen Simmons - consults with two Law School students - founded an organization called Righting the Wrongs - that focuses on policies and procedures related to racial equity with schools and municipalities, and professional development
    - iv. Joelen - remarked on the focus on housing can be valuable for the city b/c of the economic benefits of attracting residents
    - v. Cody Morrison- help with the growth of the economy in the City as a whole - focused on home ownership on a previous advertisement for moderate to low income parties on first home owners
    - vi. Danielle asked Cody if the group has actively discussed the possibility of gentrification of Barre City and the answer was not specifically
    - vii. Cody - The group works with many folks from out of state second home owners, people needing a leg up with a new service job, etc.
  - b. Education Project updates
    - i. see d.
  - c. More COVID messages - not discussed.
  - d. Vote on:
    - i. Education Project outline - Joelen
      - 1. No vote, will be reviewed at the next meeting.
    - ii. Equity assessment tool recommendation - Danielle
      - 1. No vote, will be reviewed at the next meeting.
      - 2. Danielle will send the tool draft to Mary Ellen and the definitions, mission statement, and vision statement.
- 6. Set next meeting Date: Monday, March 1, 2021 at 6:15PM
- 7. Round Table
  - a. Marichel - Someone in the community reached out about discussing what personal pronouns are and how to use them. This may be something we should recommend at the beginning of the meeting and direct them to educational resources.
  - b. Ellen - At every meeting they read a statement about inclusivity at every meeting and she will share this to see if the group would like to
  - c. Danielle - Will share a land acknowledgement opening.
  - d. Marichel - Recommended that we have this statement at the beginning of any trainings.
- 8. Adjourned at 7:57 PM.

**Action items**

- 1. Joelen - share education outline for the next meeting.

2. Danielle - send draft equity assessment impact tool to Mary Ellen along with D&E Committee mission statement, vision state and definitions.
3. Danielle - bring an example of land acknowledgement to share at next meeting.

**1) Motion:** Move to adopt minutes as amended.

**Mover/Second:** Chris/William

**Result of vote:** All in favor

**2) Motion:** To adopt Chris's statement as edited during the meeting to present to council

**Mover/Second:** Ellen/Danielle

**Result of vote:** All in favor

**3) Motion:** To accept mission statement, vision statement, and definitions

**Mover/Second:** Marichel/Chris

**Result of vote:** All in favor

**4) Motion:** To accept that the mission statement, vision statement, and definitions be considered the bedrock principles of the committee and that those serving on the committee agree to be guided by and align with those principles.

**Mover/Second:** Ellen/Marichel

**Result of vote:** All in favor

**Meeting adjourned:**

**Mover/Second:** William/Chris

**Time:** 7:57 PM

**Next meeting date/time/location:** Monday, February 15, 2021 at 6:15 PM via Zoom



Danielle Owczarski