

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

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

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

**Location of meeting:** In-person with Zoom Videoconference with Call-in Option

**Board/committee members in attendance:**

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

**Board/committee members absent:**

- Danielle Owczarski

**Others in attendance:**

- none

**Topic(s) Discussed**

1. Call to order at 6:03 PM.
  - a. Opening statement read
2. Adjustments to the Agenda.
  - a. None
3. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting - June 21
  - a. Approved without changes
4. Participants/visitors open mic
  - a. None
5. Old Business:
  - a. Working group reports:
  - b. Community Education – Chris
    - i. Chris and Joelen had a conversation. Want to find community members most affected. Would like to do an event at the library on the food truck night, sometime in August. Would like to have a liaison with the School Board.
    - ii. Meeting of education group on July 26 @ 6:30 on Zoom (Joelen will host) - Joelen will put a notice in FPF for people to join working group, especially to help organize the event.
  - c. Barre City Equity Assessment Impact Tool – Ellen
    - i. Nothing to report. Haven't been able to get together a second time with the Chief of police due to vacation schedules, etc..
  - d. Community Needs Assessment
    - i. Marichel: have been speaking with someone working with Downstreet whose doing evaluation of their equity work. Asked her for help with getting people to join our committee and working groups. People with

information about housing gaps, etc.. Haven't started gathering information, just contacts.

- ii. Housing: Joelen sent William the rental registry, with questions. Hasn't done anything with it. Joelen asked that he let her know if he isn't going to do anything with it. Said he could join the community assessment working group with Marichel.
- iii. Marichel (Community assessment): getting information with gaps and needs, it's hard to get POC to talk about their needs due to fear of losing their housing in the city. Inviting people to share in the Central VT BIPOC group. Collaborating with Downstreet to allow their tenants to share via Central VT BIPOC group, rather than via Downstreet. Need to build in safety so POCs can talk about housing.
  - 1. Joelen: layers. One is finding out BIPOC experiences with housing. But also need to look at data.

e. Policies and Procedures

- i. Discussed approach to examining policies. Chris can do an inventory of existing policies in the city to understand the scope of work to be done. Distinction between city-wide policies and department policies  
Marichel - can talk about what we've learned about policies when doing community education events.

f. Liaison Reports:

- i. Barre Unified School District D & E Committee – Joelen;
  - 1. School district passed equity policy but took antiracism policy off the agenda. Will attend the August meeting. Not sure how willing the new administration will be to collaborate with us. Will try to work with the library. More collaborations are beneficial.  
Chris: was stunned that they brought an anti-CRT person to the meeting.  
William: In the policies, there are all of these areas where they say we have to have equity, but there was no assessment.
- ii. VLCT D&E Committee – Ellen
  - 1. Ellen strongly recommends training to our committee, and to Barre City as a whole. Members can access parts 1 and 2.  
VLCT: will be going through a “reset.” VLCT acknowledges that they didn't give a clear charge to the committee, and didn't onboard properly. Will be having a “Reset workshop” facilitated by the two facilitators contracted by VLCT to work with the Equity Committee.
- iii. Other Connections - none

6. New Business:

- a. How is Barre City welcoming and supportive of immigrants? - Joelen
  - i. Joelen gave a presentation on her information gathering about resettlement communities. Brattleboro is an example. How could this dovetail with our

work: focusing on barriers to any low-income person settling in Vermont would set us up to being a refugee resettlement community. Whenever we talk about these topics we should include the idea of refugee resettlement. Fold it into our work.

7. Set next meeting Date: Monday, August 16, 2021 at 6:00PM.
8. Round Table
  - a. None
9. Adjourned at 7:22 PM.

**Action items**

1. Joelen and Chris will meet about the education committee
2. William will look for data (rental registry)
3. Chris - will look into finding out about policies in departments
4. Marichel and William will work on community needs assessment
5. Joelen, Danielle will reschedule with Chief for equity assessment tool.
6. All: watch recordings of the REAL training. Contact Ellen if you have trouble accessing them
7. Two new members at August meeting - Joelen will send a recording of this meeting to them.

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

**Mover/Secunder:** Marichel/Ellen

**Result of vote:** approved

**Meeting adjourned:**

**Mover/Secunder:** Ellen/Chris

**Time:** 7:22 PM

**Next meeting date/time/location:** Monday, August 16 at 6PM in person and via Zoom

Submitted by Ellen Kaye

(For Danielle Owczarski)