

Barre City JEDIB committee meeting minutes for December 14, 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:54PM

Members present: Joelen Mulvaney, William Toborg, Greg Quetel, Christopher Roberts, Sonya Spaulding

Visitors present: Josh Howard

Joelen Mulvaney reported that she got a call from Nicholas (City Manager) and indicated that there was no talk of city employees having Martin Luther King Junior Day off, that the union has been asking for the day off

Sonya Spaulding pointed out that it was likely part of contract negotiations and not something for the JEDIB committee

Joelen indicated that she and Quan Johnson met, that he is currently staying with Michael Deering Jr as the family he was living with was flooded out. Quan was on the student council.

Sonya Spaulding reported that there were four sessions of the Workshop items, that it involved both city administrators and committee members. There had been three meetings so far and that Kristi Clemens was providing the structure for the expectations as a container for difficult conversations. It felt respectful dealing with how to have hard conversations. It dealt with definitions and terms.

Christopher Roberts said that it was a four part series.

The next sessions will be two half day sessions. The series is set to finish on January 22, 2024. The next session will include municipal workers. The sessions will then need to end by 6:30 PM. It is possible for those who go through the program to be able to facilitate future sessions.

Joelen Mulvaney asked for input if anyone had worked on statements of our progress over the last year.

William Toborg indicated concern that one of the merchants on Main Street had reacted to the attack on Israel by flying a Palestinian flag

Joelen Mulvaney suggested that she was looking for what the committee had done.

William Toborg indicated that he believed that there was an anti-Catholic bias shown by the committee but that the committee was doing better.

Gregory Quetel indicated that it was about getting the community together.

Christopher Roberts stated that he is now working for the Department of Environmental Conservation. He indicated that we have made progress but that there had been some disappointments. Our existence is important in starting dialogue, that we are overall successful for dialogue, that diversity was often in conflict and that we negotiate it pretty well.

Sonya Spaulding said that our progress is incomplete. The workshops have been helpful and getting the City Council on board with the equity lens.

Joelen Mulvaney said that there was a grant for mediation within the committee from the Vermont Community Foundation with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, that there was disrespect between us and the city council. She suggested meeting with the committee and the mediator, meet with the City Council and the mediator and improve their ability to work together. It would be done in executive session. Emily Gould had been engaged as a facilitator.

Joelen Mulvaney reported that she had met with Quan Johnson about his own situation and society and that he did not have many months before he would leaving for college. It was suggested interviewing students and ask students what they were interested in.

Sonya Spaulding suggested we use the Equity tool for training for Barre Up. Workers would need permission in order to take the public training.

During Public Comment, Josh Howard spoke

William Toborg made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Christopher Roberts.