

**RACE EQUITY TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 5, 2020**

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / ACCEPT OR MODIFY AGENDA / ACCEPT OR MODIFY MINUTES / CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

Members: James Friday, Janna Chan, Susan Wilmot, Savanna Rovelstad, Peggi Erickson

Councilmember Liaisons: Joe Deets, Rasham Nassar

Motion to amend agenda accepted to add item 6.D.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe: There is an open city council seat due to Matt Tirman's resignation. Applicants have to reside in the South Ward. The March 20th city council meeting will discuss and approve the process. There will be an announcement in the April issue of COBI newsletter.

Bob Haslanger: What can non-task force citizens do to help? Can we volunteer? Is there a public volunteer roster?

3. NEW RETF MEMBER

Erin Phillips was selected from the applicants list who originally applied for the RETF and from the recommendations of RETF members. The approval vote by the city council is on the agenda for the March 10th city council meeting.

Erin: I'm excited to support the RETF and to work on systemic change.

4. GARE UPDATE

Joe: Has contacted the new contact Gordon Goodwin at GARE to set up a meeting 3rd week of April. We have no contract with them yet. There have been communication issues.

Janna: We need to elevate this. It keeps getting pushed back. We need to contact the executive director Dwayne Marsh of Race Forward because of lack of communication. James and I will join the conversations with GARE from now on.

James: I want transparency. I am concerned that decisions are being made without our input. Our community participation is at stake.

Janna: We need a public announcement to update the community to avoid distrust. Modifications to the approved proposal will push it back to city council. We have a 3rd quarter event on our calendar to discuss progress on the work with GARE.

Action: Joe will contact Gordon Goodwin to escalate with James and Janna. He will also check on if our membership fee is paid and if not if we can join now.

Peggi: Can I go to the GARE annual meeting in Portland 4-14 and 15?

Joe: Yes on your own.

5. BUDGET COMMITTEE UPDATE AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Budget committee will meet monthly - Peggi, Brenda, Janna

Voices of Power poetry event April 25th: We are under budget. The museum will do our printing. The poets are secured.

Motion to approve Youth Poetry Contest approved.

Theme is being chosen. We are partnering with the School District - Middle and High schools. Three winners chosen to read with possible prizes to be funded from budget, speaker fees or donation. Judges not selected yet. Submissions to be sent to Janna. Marketing through COBI newsletter, schools, partner organizations.

No changes to fund allocation now. Next budget meeting the committee will project out on the budget.

Rasham: Be mindful of fiscal responsibility. Food purchases must be frugal.

Janna: Check the events guidelines attached to the agenda. Do not buy anything out of pocket to be reimbursed by the city. The city must make all purchases.

Peggi: No changes at this time to report to the city council.

Farmers Market: We will calendar out dates for tabling.

We have spent a total of \$900 so far on buttons and speaker fees.

Rasham: We need the poetry event budget ASAP - by Wednesday.

6. RETF UPDATE FOR CITY COUNCIL

A. Reallocation of Funds:

No proposal for this yet. No council time needed for April.

B. Saving Minutes in Perpetuity:

Bob Haslanger: James and I have met and discussed partnering with The Bainbridge Island Historical Museum. The museum is very interested in this work. Marilee Mostov works on acquisitions. We can work out a method to get documents to the museum. They can be digitalized as well as hard copy. This is definitely something we want to be involved in.

Janna: They can be collected in a shared folder.

Sue: The city only saves things for 6 years. Can the city save our task force minutes and documents longer than 6 years? Racism isn't going to be gone in 6 years. We will still be working on it. How do we change this rule? It is also the city's responsibility to save this work.

Joe: I will check into it.

C. Calendar:

Sue: We would like a master calendar of all cultural events on the island.

Savanna: We discussed with Derek of Bainbridge Pride about getting a calendar partnership going for events.

Bob Haslanger: The Downtown Association, Arts and Humanities, and Chamber of Commerce have calendars to share events.

Erin: I'm on the Board of Arts and Humanities. We have a calendar and accept admissions from the community. No political events.

Janna: This would help network with our partners.

Savanna: Arts and Humanities calendar would be a good way to go.

Peggi: We have a ListServ with the city for RETF that we could use. Develop an RETF newsletter to send out? I can add the people on our email roster to our ListServ. They will have the option to unsubscribe.

Joe: Check with Kristen on that.

D. Partnerships:

Peggi: We should have a structure in place for partnerships with community groups. Can we announce community events through the ListServ?

Rasham: Yes, but city money cannot go toward private-public partnerships.

Sue: I'm on the Board of the Kitsap Democrats. Can members of RETF speak as panelists for their meeting. Kitsap Democrats received a \$5,000 grant for diversity and inclusion, and they want to learn about our work.

Joe: Yes, so long as you don't present as speaking for the task force.

Peggi: Brenda spoke at the ERACE meeting.

James: Send me email contacts for groups you would like us to partner with. (Agenda item for next meeting.)

7. BLACK HISTORY MONTH COMMUNITY EVENT RECAP

James: Sue and I had a table. It was a fun event, but the youth turnout was disappointing. We need better outreach to our youth.

Janna: Schools have equity groups that we can contact. We could ask for a table at the Multicultural event.

Savanna: I volunteer with SAGA and can check in.

James: We need to move back to involve youth.

Peggi: There is a MAC calendar too. We should send and receive event alerts. I can collect the events.

8. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Charlotte Rovelstad: Currents magazine does event notifications. I dislike contests for children. You should open it up to all participants to read their poetry. Not having food at events is a "white thing". You should have food at celebrations.

Joe: The MLK event is in Bainbridge Island Magazine.

Erin: The census is an equity issue. It is online only and does not contact PO Boxes. We need an effort to get to undercounted groups. We also need to work to get POC on city committees.

Janna: We need to address our 3rd quarter events and citizens academy at our next meeting.

Rasham: City Council Retreat is tomorrow. We will establish our priorities plan. I will present the citizen academy again at the retreat. Approval of the plan will then be on the agenda of a city council business meeting for approval.

Erin: Ethics Board - all but one member resigned. Interviews have already happened. We should also discuss our RETF individual skills and interests.

Rasham: Applications for committees are handled annually.

Erin: What is the status of the Welcome Sign that was approved? Joe will follow up.

Peggi: If GARE falls through or is delayed, The People's Institute has one- and two-day workshops. \$8,000 and \$16,000.

Janna: One reason we went with GARE is because it is a longer commitment with support and membership. It is not just a couple of workshops and then we're done.

Sue: Send Community partner suggestions to James. Send events to Peggi. Send Agenda items to Sue.

9. ADJOURNMENT

8:10 PM

James Friday 6/29/20

Chair

Date