

**RACE EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 1, 2021**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/ACCEPT OR MODIFY MINUTES/ACCEPT OR MODIFY AGENDA/CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE/CODE OF CONDUCT

6:00 PM

Present : Members: Savanna Rovelstad, Sue Wilmot, Peggi Erickson, Kamara Blackwell, Eric Stahl, Deanna Martinez
Liaison: Rasham Nassar

2. SUQUAMISH ANCESTRAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Sal DeRosalia - Have you reached out to the tribe? I would like to see them on the City Council or involved. I submitted a complaint to you. James Friday contacted me and advised me to file an ethics complaint. Why are you pushing it back to the ethics committee when you are trying to have a say in that?

Joe Deets - Thank you for taking up the Proclamation. This is a resolution on the direction of the City Council. I would like to see included in this that Bainbridge Island strives to be an inclusive and welcoming city. Pacific Islanders need to be included and I would like a reference to the Chinese Exclusion Act. There is no rush. Perhaps a subcommittee?

4. CHECK IN – Sue

What is a highlight for you this past year despite the quarantine?

5. NEW MEMBERS

Roz - As soon as they are confirmed by the City Council, possibly 4/13/2021. They have to do the training before they can meet.

We should have a subcommittee or buddy system to get them caught up.

Savanna and Sue will be on the subcommittee. Vote - unanimous.

Deanna - I am willing to give feedback. Relationship building is important.

Savanna - We should talk about a retreat in the future.

6. GARE TRAINING UPDATE

Peggi - Kate Brown the HR director for COBI is getting people signed up. You should have received an email from her. Three are signed up for the April training - Brenda, Michael Pollock, and Peggi. Everyone but James is signed up for the GARE Annual Meeting. We are getting people signed up for the 5/18/21 foundational training. You should get an invite. Kirsten Hytopoulos, Joe Deets and Ashley Mathews are signed up. We will have 2 more codes for the June training. Kate Brown is going also.

7. CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

A. REAC RESOLUTION ON RACE EQUITY AND ETHICS

Eric - At the March 16th City Council meeting some of the council members objected to REAC weighing in on ethics issues. Talking about talking about race equity is difficult. Reviewing race equity issues should not be an ethics issue. A process is needed to address when we are asked to weigh in. We sent something that the City Council already rejected.

Rasham - There is nothing going on with this from the process standpoint. A majority

Would not support adding our resolution to a future agenda. It was on the agenda, but it was pulled. The ball is back in REAC's court, the part about REAC crossing over into ethics does not have support

Eric - REAC is to be consulted meaningfully on issues of race equity. We are not proposing something out of the Ethics Board's lane.

Deanna - I watched it four times. It took me that long to understand what was going on. We need to set something up, so we do not present something to City Council that they do not want to talk about. I was hearing council members offended that it was brought up. Does one setting mean that it cannot be brought up again? What is the offense in that? I have a list of things that every time that issues of race are brought up there is a fight. Are we only going to pass race equity with a majority?

Rasham - I am speaking as an individual council member. Other council members will have different opinions. If a proposal is declined and brought up in a different form later, it is not forbidden. City Council did not want to discuss REAC being involved in ethics. A resolution is not screened or edited before being put on the agenda.

Deanna - The majority part is always a problem with race equity. If things are a majority, what does the future hold?

Rasham - Democracy is a simple majority. We need four council members to pass anything. I am looking at "Preservation of Minority Opinion" It would allow minority voices to be heard with equal opportunity for minority voices.

Sue - It is always the majority deciding the rights of the minority. Could we reword the ethics part of the resolution? Can we change the words and get what we want to move in the right direction?

Peggi - We had the Climate group come to us. We invited them without City Council involvement. We do not need a formal resolution. We can offer and encourage people to come to us.

Eric - It would be useful to have some kind of process. We do not have a process to address people to come to us. A process to provide us a way to weigh in with problems with our mission statement.

Eric - Can we have a subcommittee for this?

Deanna- I do not want to compromise on our scope of work. This proclamation is our scope of work. Those that are most affected should be listened to. If it is not palatable it does not get a majority. I do not think we should rewrite what we have written.

Sue - Can we change the words to still get what we want?

Eric - We will try to figure out a way to get it on the agenda.

Race Equity and Ethics Subcommittee vote unanimous: Eric, Deanna, Kamara

B. PROCLAMATION CONDEMNING HATE, RACISM, AND INTOLERANCE AGAINST ASIAN AMERICANS

Sue - I will rework this with Joe Deets' suggestions. I was hoping it would be ready to be read at the vigil and rally.

Peggi - I motion that we designate Sue to rework it and forward it to the City Council. Vote Unanimous

8. EVENTS

A. FARMERS' MARKET

Booths are available starting April 10th.

James and Sue are the subcommittee. Kamara will help too.

B. RALLIES

Savanna - Standing Together in Solidarity Vigil is at Waterfront Park on April 17th at P.M.. The rally and march will be at P.M. on April 18th at Winslow and 305. March will be to City Hall. James has the new banner, and we have candles and glow sticks for the kids. There is a flyer with the city logo to share.

C. SIGN REVEAL

Sue - This is an idea for a future event with our new welcoming signs. We can table the discussion for a future agenda.

D. WING POINT EVENT CO-SPONSORSHIP

Savanna -Kamara and Savanna have been talking with Wing Point Race Equity Committee. They are looking for volunteers for this golf tournament event in October to benefit the Caddy Academy.

Rasham - The REAC as a whole cannot fundraise. As individuals you can volunteer.

Savanna and Kamara will get more info and update.

9. CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE

Subcommittee of Kamara, Savanna and Deanna voted unanimous.

Peggi - City of Portland has a plan and tools and infrastructure for a race equity lens.

Sue - We can add to subcommittees with our new members. Everyone send me what subcommittees you know you are on.

10. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Peggi - The public meeting about the new police station on Saturday is postponed. There has been public comment against investing in criminal justice because of the unequal impact on POC.

Deanna - Marvin Williams Center in Bremerton is having a series of events "Break and Chill" April 5-9.

Savanna - There is a Facebook event for Standing Together in Solidarity not created by us.

11. ADJOURNMENT

7:48 PM



James Friday, Chair 5/6/21