

**RACE EQUITY TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 18, 2020**

**1. Call to Order 5PM Via Zoom**

Present: James Friday, Susan Wilmot, Brenda Fantroy-Johnson, Savanna Rovelstad, Peggi Erickson, Rasham Nassar, Joe Deets, and Ellen Schroer.

**2. Acknowledgement of the Death of George Floyd**

Moment of Silence

James - George Floyd was murdered. His civil rights were violated. This is about fairness and equality. It a sad reminder of the same things in history happening over and over again. This is nothing new. I have had enough. The protests will not stop until we have change. We deserve equal justice under the law.

Brenda- What the problem is, is that black is judged by being black. Filming is what is bringing it out to see. Defunding means starting from scratch.

Sue - The majority is still deciding the rights of the minority.

Peggi - We have to acknowledge history. We have a messed-up system institutionally.

James - I have to fight to exist as an African American male. We must demand change and we need action now. There is systematic control of African Americans through policing and the justice system.

**3. Suquamish Ancestral Lands Acknowledgment** (agenda modification approved) - Sue

**4. Public Comment**

Sal DeRosalia - There have been police shootings on BI. The wheels of government being slow is BS. Keep pushing. More POC should be on the RETF. Start your work by looking at yourself. Seek training and education.

Jon Quitslund - I am on the Planning Commission. We need Equitable Housing as well as Affordable Housing. We are planning for equity and looking forward to working with you.

Monica Aufrecht - Looking forward to the RETF work. Hope the process moves quickly.

Erin Phillips -Conscious or unconscious effect is equal. We must dismantle institutional racism.

Erin will email RETF “8 Concrete Policies to Restrict Use of Force”.

Cindy Anderson - It has been a year and a half since BI police have had a body camera system. Has it been implemented yet? Can it be done immediately?

David Hager - Budget and taxes are moral documents used to decide equity. The legislature is dealing with these decisions now.

Deanna Martinez - What is the police stance on protests and “militia” presence? At the Poulsbo BLM protest there were “militia” with guns. We need a very clear message from the Police Chief of BI that he sees the brutality and stands against it.

#### **4. Community Outreach**

##### **A. BLM Movement and Rallies**

Peggi - We all attended the protests. The big turnouts were inspiring.

James - It is personal. I gave it all I had at that moment. The time is now. We are at the point of demands now. We have waited long enough. Our City Council needs to take this opportunity and move forward.

##### **B. City Council Resolution**

Rasham- It condemns police acts that led to the death of George Floyd. It passed 6-2. The first step is scheduling a meeting with RETF and the City Council - possibly July 14- discussing police policies and practices.

I am counting on the advocacy of citizens to hold us to this resolution.

##### **C. Farmers' Market**

James- We would like to continue our Farmers' Market outreach.

Joe - Will find out what phase we can start and if the city can provide PPE.

#### **5. Budget - Peggi and Brenda**

We had a budget of \$9,400. Balance is \$8,503.27. We have cancelled our events.

James and Sue - Can we reallocate those funds for other outreach and events?

Joe - Money is carried forward for other outreach.

Rasham - No new proposal is needed but we should inform the City Council as a courtesy.

Deputy City Manager Ellen Schroer - Money can be repurposed. Check in ahead of time to make sure that expenses are eligible. Repurposing for a different event is OK. tell CC for communication and financial support.

Rasham - Next Steps: Identify a new outreach plan. Give Rasham and Joe a "Revised Work Plan".

Savanna - Can we have an online social media presence?

Rasham - No, but I will recheck with city attorney. We are subject to the public records act. A public member can do it though.

#### **6. GARE**

Joe - In December 2019, we approved the GARE program. I have been communicating with Gordon at GARE and there are currently online options for workshops.

Ellen - We have joined GARE. Joe will send out the options that are available.

Peggi - Since BI is a member of GARE, I will see about how we up personal accounts.

#### **7. Welcoming Sign**

Brenda - Where is my sign? It was approved in November.

Joe - It is on my list and I will contact the city and ask tomorrow.

Brenda - It is uncomfortable to have to keep asking.

**8. Add New RETF Members**

It has been open for 2 weeks. 10 Applications have been received as of today. Open through July 31. RETF as a group will consider new additions.

**9. COVID Update**

Sue - How does the status of the COVID restrictions affect our meetings and how do we find out?

Rasham - We have to do everything according to the state protocols. I will look into it and let you know.

James - We need to meet twice a month to catch up.

Rasham - I will check to see when we can meet next.

**10. New Police Chief Joe Clark**

James - I met with him on Wednesday. As of the 20th the body cameras will be all working. Acceptable restraint means no one's knee is on anyone's neck unless life is in jeopardy. Chief Clark asked us all to give him a chance First to see if a citizen's oversight committee is needed. He agreed to a gathering of data for the RETF. It was a pleasant conversation.

**11. Good of the Order**

Sue - Send agenda items to Sue.

Peggi - Juneteenth events tomorrow and Saturday in Bremerton and Kingston.

**12. Adjournment 7:25 PM.**

*James Friday* 6/29/20

Chair

Date