



Racial Equity and Social Justice Advisory Committee

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 (Virtual Meeting)

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Minutes

ATTENDEES: Troy Boddy, Sonia Canzater, Jared Hautamaki, Shuo (Jim) Huang, Sylvia Hernandez, Betty Lam, Shane Lloyd (Vice Chair), Willie Parker-Loan, Izola Shaw, Selena Mendy Singleton, Jim Stowe, Gustavo Torres, Partap Verma (Chair)

Absent: Pat Grant

RESJ Staff: Tiffany Ward, Gimari Jones, Andrea Gardner

SPECIAL GUESTS

Councilmember Nancy Navarro
Dr. Christopher Rogers

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Verma Partap.

SPECIAL GUEST

Councilmember Nancy Navarro discussed the history of the Racial Equity and Social Justice Act and amendments, the work of the Council on COVID 19, generally and through Por Nuestra Salud and the African American Health Program, and digital divide initiatives.

Action: None

SPECIAL GUEST

Dr. Christopher Rogers, Policy & Strategy Officer, Public Health Services, Department of Health and Human Services, presented an overview of Healthy Montgomery – Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). He shared that Healthy Montgomery is seeking a volunteer from the Committee to help identify and prioritize health needs in Montgomery County.

Action: Interested Committee members should contact Tiffany Ward.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item: Draft Bylaws

Selena Mendy Singleton indicated that the next step to finalize the bylaws was to send them to the office of Boards, Committees, and Commissions (BCC office) so that they may send them to the County Attorney.

Shou Huang moved to send the bylaws to the BCC Office; Jared Hautamaki seconded. The motion was passed unanimously by those present.

Action: Ms. Singleton will send the letter to the BCC office.

Item: Letter to Governor Lawrence Hogan

The letter was received by Governor Hogan's office.

Action: None.

Item: Letter to County Executive

Gustavo Torres asked that the letter be finalized this week.

Action: Partap Verma will send the draft letter to the Committee. Committee will schedule a meeting for Wednesday, March 24, 2021.

Item: Nominating Committee

Partap Verma and Tiffany Ward updated the Committee on the status of interviews.

Action: Nominating Committee will interview qualified applicants by the second week of April.

Item: RESJ committee budget for community education and other mandated activities

Committee discussed how to use for educations outreach. Zola Shaw suggested the possibility of funding a social media campaign. Sonia Canzater recommended cross-collaborating with other organizations.

Action: Committee members will present ideas to the group.

NEW BUSINESS

Item: Data Montgomery

Jared Hautamaki would like to follow up on the Data Montgomery initiative and demographic data (especially to identify Alaskan Natives in the community).

Action: Mr. Hautamaki will follow up.

Item: Speakers/next meeting

Selena Mendy Singleton suggested inviting Dr. Elaine Bonner-Tompkins to discuss racial equity and the Office of Legislative Oversight.

Action: Ms. Singleton will reach out to invite Dr. Bonner-Tompkins

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Zola Shaw reminded the Committee to review the Draft Racial Equity and Social Justice Advisory Committee Values document and provide feedback.
2. Jim Stowe shared that there will be an Asian Americans and Pacific Islander (AAIP) Solidarity Event on Friday, March 19, 2021 in response to the recent shootings in Atlanta.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m. by Chair Partap Verma.