



**RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2021 (6:30PM – 8:30PM)**

Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES: Sonia Canzater, Isaac Cudjoe, Pat Grant, Sylvia Hernandez, Jared Hautamaki Shuo (Jim) Huang, Tasnuva Khan, Jordan Neal, Willie Parker-Loan, Izola Shaw, Selena Mendy Singleton, Jim Stowe, Gustavo Torres, Partap Verma (Chair)

ORESJ Staff: Tiffany Ward, Andrea Gardner, Gimari Jones, Sarah Alvarez

Not in Attendance: Shane Lloyd (Vice Chair), Betty Lam, and Troy Boddy

Guest: Pamela Zorich, Research Coordinator, Research & Strategic Projects Division – Montgomery County Planning Department – The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Chair Verma

Introductions

- Sarah Alvarez, a new ORESJ staff person, introduced herself.
- Jordan Neal, Isaac Cudjoe, and Tasnuva Khan introduced themselves as new RESJAC members.

AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as amended.

NEW BUSINESS

Item: Retrospective on Committee’s Work from September 2020 to April 2021

- Chair Verma suggested moving the committee retrospective to the next meeting since Vice Chair Lloyd is leading this work

PRESENTATION

Item: Racial Equity and Planning – General Plan 2050

- Special Guest Pamela Zorich was introduced by Committee Chair Verma
- Ms. Zorich provided a presentation on [Montgomery County's Thrive Montgomery 2050 Plan](#) - the update to Montgomery County's General Plan, its long-range policy framework for guiding future land use and growth for the next 30 years.
- Chair Verma provided some background on next steps with the plan

MINUTES - none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item: RESJAC Funds for community education and other mandated activities

- Ms. Ward shared the following:
 - The Committee has \$25,000 budgeted for community education and other mandated activities. Deadline for using funds is by the end of June (Funds need to be allocated by that time)
 - The committee has to decide how the money will be spent
- Chair Verma asked if the Committee could plan in-person activities now that the County is starting to open up from COVID restrictions
- Mr. Huang and Ms. Shaw suggested using the funds to get community input on programs and policies so that the Committee can understand how to inform the County
- Ms. Canzater suggested using the money to conduct outreach around housing equity (in relation to tonight's presentation), perhaps through needs assessments.
- Ms. Khan suggested potentially focusing on the Fairland community/Burtonsville Crossing sector, which has a lot of engagement.

Action: Ms. Khan will engage with her connections in that community to get some feedback on how the Committee can partner with them.

- Mr. Cudjoe suggested using the funds for some of the events that are happening outside, such as the Juneteenth event at Black Rock Center.

Action: Mr. Cudjoe will research details on how the Committee could use those funds to support training and education efforts at that event.

- Mr. Stowe (who is leading the Juneteenth celebration, as the Director of the Montgomery County Office of Human Rights) echoed Mr. Cudjoe's suggestion and shared that the event is a full day of activities from 10am-10pm.

Action: Mr. Stowe will send the flyer and other information to Ms. Ward.

Item: Sub Committee Meeting Structure

- Mr. Stowe suggested that it might be helpful to look at the work and build committees as the work presents itself during discussions and presentations.

NEW BUSINESS

Item: Committee Retreat

- Ms. Ward introduced the idea of a Committee retreat

Action: Ms. Ward will send date options via email or via a Doodle Poll for the retreat

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - none

ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm by Chair Verma