



RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022 (6:30 PM)
MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES:

Committee Members: Izola (Zola) Shaw (Chair), Shane Lloyd (Vice Chair), Selena Mendy Singleton (Parliamentarian), Sonia Canzater, Isaac Cudjoe, Jared Hautamaki, Sylvia Hernandez, Shuo Huang, Tasnuva Khan, Betty Lam, Jordan Neal, Willie Parker Loan, Jim Stowe, Gustavo Torres, Partap Verma

Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice Staff: Tiffany Ward

Absent: Pat Grant

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:33pm by Chair Shaw.

AGENDA

No objections or additions.

MINUTES

No objections or additions.

- February 16 meeting minutes approved.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT OUT

- Shuo Huang– Public Safety, Immigration and Health: Shared that the subcommittee is planning efforts to advise on the following legislation:
 - House Bill 1080 Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Children and Pregnant Women (Healthy Babies Equity Act)
 - Senate Bill 728 Health Insurance – Qualified Resident State Subsidy Program (Access to Care Act)
- Health Subcommittee: Tasnuva Khan, Pharm.D., Director of Faith & Vaccines, presented on “Montgomery County Vaccination Clinics”. Faith & Vaccines conducted the following:
 - Faith & Vaccines started in March 2021 with the Vaccine Equity Task Force, which partners with community organizations and faith centers to serve as host sites for vaccine clinics. Faith & Vaccines partnered with Brookville Pharmacy- which organized several clinics throughout the County and Islamic Center of Maryland – which held 6 clinics.
 - On November 21, 2021, the Faith & Vaccines team hosted a Day of Dignity at the Islamic Center of Maryland, where over 500 community members attended. During the health fair/free clinic portion of this event, the team distributed Social Determinants of Health literature and *GoVax* flyers in English and Spanish to increase awareness of the November 28 vaccine clinics.

- Faith & Vaccines administered approximately 3,000 vaccine doses throughout Maryland.

No motions or votes taken.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PRESENTATION

Stan Edwards, Doug Weisburger and Adriana Hochberg presented on “Environmental Justice in Montgomery County” and shared that DEP is

- Striving for a fundamental shift in their thinking to achieve equitable community engagement, sharing power and co-creation, building ongoing relationships, recognizing that the root causes of environmental degradation and racial inequity are the same.
- Conducting several activities such as the community justice academy, watershed restoration activities and DEP Inclusion Workshops to advance equitable community engagement.

Many RESJAC members commended DEP staff for their efforts, leadership and growth-minded approach to shift their method towards equity and noted that the DEP approach could serve as a model for other areas of County Government.

No motions or votes taken.

RESJAC SPRING COMMUNITY FORUM

- Isaac Cudjoe shared that the RESJAC Communications and Outreach Subcommittee is planning a RESJAC community forum tentatively scheduled for the spring. Members discussed potential dates and topics. The subcommittee will continue to keep RESJAC posted as the event planning progresses.
- No motions or votes taken.

NEW BUSINESS

Item: Thrive 2020 Update

Discussion Highlights:

- Zola Shaw reported that the Council recently released a request for proposals (RFP) to hire a RESJAC consultant to convene BIPOC and low-income residents to review the draft of Thrive and provide recommendations on each of the policies. The RFP gives the consultant until July 1 to submit a final report. Since the Council is interested in receiving feedback on Thrive from BIPOC residents, Zola Shaw shared that there is an opportunity for RESJAC members to share additional input to the Council on Thrive through a letter.
- Jared Hautamaki shared a presentation on land back which included:
 - An explanation of “What is Land Back” – The movement for decolonization – land restitution for Indigenous people, including a transfer of power and wealth and requires that settlers work to repair the harm colonization has done and continues to inflict on Indigenous people.
 - The Land Back movement is ultimately a manner of securing an Indigenous futurity that includes self-determination, environmental sustainability, and economic justice.
 - The long-term negative impacts of land dispossession: A data set found that Indigenous land density and spread has been reduced by nearly 99%¹
 - Sharing examples of where tribes have reclaimed land: Virginia, Washington, California, Delaware.
 - Maryland has three state recognized tribes: the Piscataway Indian Nation, the Piscataway Conoy Tribe, and the Accohannock Indian Tribe.

¹ Effects of land dispossession and forced migration on Indigenous peoples in North America; <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abe4943>

- Proposed next steps: Coordinate/Meet with the Maryland Indian Commission, invite members of the Piscataway Tribe to speak with RESJAC; explore gathering information/resources from the Indian Health Service and Baltimore American Indian Center; and ask the County to set aside land for Native peoples in a RESJAC letter on Thrive.

No motions or votes taken.

Item: Attendance Policy

Discussion Highlights:

- Shane Lloyd reported that based on the Montgomery County Code, RESJAC members are allowed three absences in one year. If a member misses four meetings, then that member will receive a letter to initiate the process for removal.

Item: RESJAC Retreat II

Discussion Highlights:

- Tiffany Ward will reach out to schedule a meeting with members who previously expressed an interest in planning the Retreat II

No motions or votes taken.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Zola Shaw shared the following announcements:
 - Ms. Anita Powell (Rockville resident), President of the Lincoln Park Historical Foundation, hosted a virtual event called “Harriet Tubman’s 200th Birthday and Women’s History Month Celebration” on March 18 at 7:00PM.
 - The Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture hosted a virtual event “Reclaiming Harriet Tubman: A Life Behind the Myths” on March 21.
 - Save the date April 1-2 for a reparations conference hosted by the African American Redress Network, Columbia University and Howard University.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm by Chair Shaw.