

MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING

Commission on Racial Justice and Equity

Thursday, June 17, 2021

7pm

Held Via Zoom

Meeting began at 7pm. In attendance were Alina Bricklin-Goldstein, Deb Carroll, Tracy-Ann Johnson, Barret Katuna, Sue Oppenheimer, Dave Peniston, Lillian Tanski, Michael Vigeant, Jen Wang

Absent: Xabian Alarcon

Public Comment:

Bruce Bowman, 62 Morgan Drive: public comments at BOE meeting were disheartening. Thank you for the work you are doing.

Survey Progress/Outreach Strategy:

MV: There is so much positive feedback in the work you are doing! 382 responses thus far; letter sent to RJEC questioning methodology of survey—addressed in previous meeting and council report; we need to speak to as many people as possible to get survey out. Keep an eye on whether we are oversampled in some areas; letter mentioned lack of diversity at Great Blue—not true, and survey was designed by RJEC, which is also diverse; comment that the survey “focuses on the negative”; letter was not necessarily critical of the work, but demonstrates a lack of understanding of how the questions yield data; GB keeping track of what questions are asked; still need to acquire and synthesize secondary data, meet with department heads, community leaders, etc; 400 responses= +/- 5% error

DP: disappointed in email sent to RJEC; questions the validity of the survey

MV: I am not critical of other people’s work, open to knowing what questions will evolve; if people are uncomfortable, we are doing our job

LT: Letter was largely questions about how survey works; q’s 9-11 “have you ever witnessed” concern in letter was about lack of granularity; we discussed this in process and decided that we would drill down in public conversation, keeping in mind how much time people were already spending on survey

MV: questions are open ended, no skip pattern; we then have a starting point for public conversation—here is what people think these terms mean; we can use data as a starting point for conversation

LT: We need to remind folks of full process; while staff @ GB involved—that’s why we chose to partner with you; this is difficult, nuanced work; we need to be comfortable being uncomfortable as well; letter was not from a critic trying to derail, but someone seeking understanding

MV: We will offer FAQ with report—these are the questions that came up most frequently during process

JW: thank you for keeping track of questions, helps people understand process; 400 is statistically valid, but that is only 1% of our population; this isn't just for the sake of the data, but for community engagement

BK: Is Spanish link up?

LT: yes. Can we translate flyer as well?

MV: Yes

SO: can we post on bulletin boards in town? What about QR code on back?

LT: working with Neil Griffin on flyer they can distribute to all GHA residents

DC: What about a senior center? Do we need paper copies?

SO: they have some computers there

LT: Does QR go directly to survey?

JW: Yes

AB: What are limitations for handout flyer with QR code or copies of survey in town?

Art Contest

SO: Very few submissions thus far

AB: Would it be worthwhile to extend deadline for contest and push survey through the summer?

DP: Post on Glastonbury friends and neighbors

JW: Through town committees, on FB pages as well

TJ: Ask about Open Choice list

JW: Postcards?

LT: Tax mailing is in July

SO: How about dog license email?

Public Interest in Helping with RJEC

LT: Only people who can respond currently are DC and LT

DC: I don't have access

AB: we need to spread word on survey and contest

JW: Make sure site is in signature contact list for mailings

LT: Offer boilerplate response to emails, with personal followup

DP: do we want to put together a group to address questions and comments? Allows for faster response, happy to be in that group

SO: We need more submissions for contest

JW: Extend deadline to fall?

DC: Get info to River Bend

BK: and to YMCA camps

DC: Motion to extend deadline for art contest to 7/9/21?

JW: Friendly amendment to 7/15 @ noon, announce winner on 8/5

Unanimously accepted by members

SO: We just need one powerful picture

Public Info

JW: How do people access videos of meetings online? Town site still not listing wordpress site

DC: Let's move discussion on report to 7/1

Minutes from 6/10 approved unanimously by attendees, JW abstaining