

MINUTES FROM SPECIAL MEETING

Commission on Racial Justice and Equity

Thursday, July 15th, 2021

7:00pm

Held Via Zoom

Meeting began at 7:00pm. In attendance were Alina Bricklin-Goldstein, Deb Carroll, Barret Katuna, Tracy-Ann Johnson, Sue Oppenheimer, Dave Peniston, Lillian Tanski, Jen Wang

Absent: Xabian Alarcon

No Public Comment

DC: Rundown of current followups. No PTO communication from non-education groups; open choice, use state contacts; no contact with GHIA yet; will follow up with Mike re: Chamber; no to directly emailing town employees; Lillian handling emails; will discuss secondary data with Mike and Richard; paper copies to senior services; bilingual flyer to GHA residences tomorrow; congregate housing staff will announce survey at lunch, help interested residents complete

SO: Can we post press release on closing on town website? Have Citizen make final announcement?
Gave QR code to Parks & Rec

JW: Thanks for updates; reached out to PTO at GEHMS, unable to make contact; reminded BiG, who re-shared to social media; they seem to be slowing down a bit

DC: for secondary data, let's consider what we mean by that

TJ: qualitative approach, community conversations, phone conversations, we will have a better scope through direct dialogue, interviews, other data available

DC: where is synergy between existing data and interviews

JW: let's prioritize conversations; look at relevant departments; how do we access one-on-one data in an anonymous way; from an analytical perspective, what is both meaningful and doable; qualitatively, what lived, anonymous data from BiG is out there?; look at town hall meeting structure to maximize data value

BK: focus groups on issues from survey data, work with chamber, different audiences, retirees, parents, etc.; maybe in continuing ed brochure a seminar on how to talk about race, race as a social construct, partner with continuing ed, youth and family services

DC: let's work on a timeline with Mike on data collection

SO: how forthcoming will our big 4 areas be with information?

DC: We need to ask data-driven questions to eliminate that issue

SO: is this all public information we are seeking?

TJ: state reports on policing, school climate reports are all available publicly

BK: Sent email with 8 submissions to art contest to everyone

JW: 2 more through Holly Constantine who is working with students who were having issues submitting

SO: Adult entry wants to be anonymous, are we ok with that? Worried about repercussions.

TJ: Pretty powerful; very creative; maybe 1st name only?

AG: Here's someone not comfortable displaying with own name—that's a statement in and of itself

SO: can we do certificates for all entrants? Use winning image for cover of report?

DC: we can use all images in report?

BK: do a presentation to winner, have images in citizen?

JW: would love for this to be in person; art guild show is 9/11, applied for farmer's market table

DC: read resolution and mission as refresher to all

AG: I am hung up on numbers for survey; in context of town population, numbers are low; we did not have enough of a plan to get it out; we are not doing justice to the data, should have spent more time on roll-out plan

JW: In that review of language in the resolution and mission, there is a focus on data, but also on other concerns; let's look at the connection between the mission and data; can we actually serve our mission? Do we want to consider more qualitative data?

DC: Let's also be thinking of the future of the RJEC—post-election, post-report, etc; transition to in person, need to discuss logistics with town manager such as location, whether meetings would be recorded, etc.

DP: easier to meet online, but in person is possible

BK: agree with Dave , there is value in meeting in person—maybe alternate in person with Zoom?

DC: motion to pass minutes from 6/17 Special Meeting unanimously accepted

Motion to pass amended minutes from 7/1 special meeting (including JW in secondary data working group) LT abstained, passed by balance of attending members

Meeting adjourned at 8:08pm