

## MINUTES FROM SPECIAL MEETING

Commission on Racial Justice and Equity

Sunday, September 19, 2021

7:00pm

Held Via Zoom

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

No Public Comment

MV: Initial findings are a long report. Let's talk about what we learned/ how to conduct our community conversation (CC)/pull what we believe to be the themes. We need to set the tone, offer overview of our efforts, explain reach of survey. This was a collective effort for the writing of the survey, and came after much discussion. Ensure audience knows this was not written by GB, but by RJEC. We need to create a starting point: unearth definitions, beliefs and perceptions. We can offer a bullet point list of areas of investigation. Do we agree/disagree on this document for a starting point? The big fear is that this will all be perceived a premature—one point of disagreement from public on areas of investigation could derail our conversation. Our task is to introduce themes, hear recommendations from the public. We could do Intro/themes/commission statement/open comment/listen and record

DP: Yes to approach. Good idea on "what type of action" does the public want to see—gives public ownership

MV: Gives the public the opportunity to hear what we have been tasked with

DC: Agree to approach

LT: One thing MV noted and is central is that this is the opening conversation—this is what RJEC is made for—stake out that we are looking for underrepresented voices

MV: You want a final report that addresses every point—we're still gathering info. What are thoughts about moving forward?

LT: Let's not even touch data. Look at survey process. We still have the task to hear more.

AB: These are CCs, and should be for underrepresented people

DC: I think the narrower our focus, the more productive it will be

JW: Let's keep it simple. Go over data/themes, control what we are asking for in terms of comment, look at our key messages, as stated by LT & AB. Thanks to MV & DQ & GB. Excited to get this out there.

MV: Are we in agreement on approach? Look at themes/public comment/collection phase. Let's see how the conversation goes to determine our direction. That moves the spotlight off GB and onto RJEC

MV then presented and reviewed preliminary themes from the survey. We will get a 2 page summary.

SO: How long will we need for presentation?

DQ: 15-20 minutes, depending on how many slides we decide to use

MV: We can just pull the applicable slides from the report for the presentation and label them as draft

JW: 2 questions on data—numbers adding up

DQ: “prefer not to answer” skews numbers in those cases

DC: Let’s reiterate meeting structure

MV: We can do handouts, and I recommend a list for public speaking

DC: and what if no one talks? We need backup plans

DP: Same game plan, we will see how it goes

DC: I will send a timeline/agenda to RJEC members for approval

JW: We need ownership of this—all RJEC members, not just DC, LT and DP. DO we need security

MV: Have we invited police as attendees?

JW: What about lighting, audio, tech needs? Do we close meeting with action items? Will minutes be available?

MV: If we have to choose, minutes are more practical over recording

LT: DO we want a QR code for RJEC website on the handout? Timeline for evening is very important

DP: BOE invited, yes, we need undercover officer

SO: How are we doing seating? How much notice is needed for a rain date?

LT: Include rain date info in invites

DC: we need to be able to track interest. Can we do this as a FB invite?

TJ: Good idea

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm