

**RACE EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 4, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

REAC members present: Renni Bispham, Peggi Erickson, Jing Fong, Olivia Hall, Savanna Rovelstad, Eric Stahl.

Liaison: Brenda Fantroy-Johnson

Excused: Lynn Beck, Clarence Moriwaki

There were no modifications to the May 4, 2023 agenda.

Today is Peggi Erickson's last meeting as a REAC member. She was presented with a certificate of appreciation and commemorated for her service to her colleagues and community.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cindy Anderson heard there was a grey/black altered version of the American flag on the back of a police car that has a controversial historical meaning. Cindy alerted Chief Clark about it.

MOTIONS

Peggi: I move that we authorize no more than what was spent in last year's Juneteenth events and authorize Olivia to contact planners for the Bainbridge Island and Kitsap Juneteenth events for their needs they'd like REAC to support.

Motion withdrawn.

MINUTES

Equity Inclusion Officer

Candidates for the equity inclusion officer will be interviewed by a panel, including REAC members Olivia Hall and Jing Fong on May 22.

Police-Court Facility

The City Council should be able to make a decision on the police-court name and the public art pieces for the facility sometime in June, either June 9 or 23.

Equity Training

REAC is waiting to hear from City Manager King on the status of the City Council-REAC race equity training recommendation.

Vacant REAC positions

Applications for vacant REAC positions close on May 17.

Comprehensive Plan Toolkit

- The first draft of the Comprehensive Plan worksheet and tool kit has been shared with city staff, steering committee, and council members for input.
- While REAC is disappointed that it was not included on the Steering Committee, it is proud of how we've come together, working with city staff and City Council members on this.

The City's Zero Emission Project is currently just a city pilot.

What does it mean when the City or REAC co-sponsors an event or provides funding?

- City Council approves funding of events. There are two sources for funding: Lodging Tax and Cultural Funding. Funding award cycle is every two years. Organizations can submit requests for up to \$5k. A task force reviews and forwards recommendations to City Council. City Council approves.
- REAC's refocused intention on events is to be less involved in planning and hands-on work and still be a partner and offer a platform for publicizing and endorsing the event.
- The City doesn't have dedicated staff for cultural events or event planning.
- If an event or commemoration has a line item in the City budget, it doesn't have to go through Cultural Funding approval. Indigenous People's Day has a line item in the budget. MLK and Juneteenth do not. The next opportunity to add line items would be in 2024 for the 2025-2026 budget.

SUBCOMMITTEE PROGRESS

Outreach/Engagement

Juneteenth: If REAC has a budget request for the Council, it will need to pass a motion at its June 1 meeting for consideration on June 13.

Motion made and withdrawn by Peggi to authorize funding no more than what was spent than last year and authorize Olivia to contact planners for the Bainbridge Island and Kitsap Juneteenth events for their needs they'd like REAC to support.

Peggi will reach out to last year's planners and tell them that REAC will support but not be involved in a lot of planning. Savanna is willing to help in part of the planning.

Finance

Covered.

GARE/Training

We are now looking for a new GARE liaison with Peggi's departure. There will not be a membership meeting this year.

Law & Policy

Nothing to report.

Strategic Plan

Please update the listening session spreadsheet.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

April 25 hearing covered in comprehensive plan discussion.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

*Bremerton REAC has been dismantled. It is currently being revised and will report to the mayor. There has been a request from the community that at least 50% of previous REAC members be appointed to the new formation. Action item: Individuals reach out to Bremerton City Council and Mayor to stay in line with the community's request.

* One of the reasons REAC was created was to make sure that we were putting more focus on events that were oriented towards people of color. I'm hoping that we can find a volunteer group or somebody who wants to support BIPOC holidays and commemorations so that the City of Bainbridge Island, who has committed to being equitable, will support BIPOC events just as it supports the Fourth of July and the Rotary Auction. (Savanna)

*Safe Place Program. In *The Review*, there was a story about the police department implementing a safe space program for victims of bias for hate crimes starting in June. Victims will be able to go to a safe place that has a "safe place" sticker after any such incident. This sounds similar to what James Friday tried to start a couple of years ago. REAC would like to know more about this program and have the opportunity to offer some perspectives on it. Who is driving this? Will your idea be listened to or heard? Does it depend on who you are, what you look like?

*Suquamish Tribe is hosting a march for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls on May 5 at 1-4 p.m. that starts at House of Awakening.

*April is Volunteer Month. Ellen presented certificates of appreciation to REAC members.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.


Co-Chair


Date