

**RACE EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING/STUDY SESSION
JULY 29, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/ACCEPT OR MODIFY MINUTES/ACCEPT OR MODIFY
AGENDA/CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE/CODE OF CONDUCT – 6 PM**

Present: James Friday, Savanna Rovelstad, Sue Wilmot, Peggi Erickson, Kamara Blackwell, Eric Stahl, Renni Bispham, Deanna Martinez, Jing Fong

Liaison: Rasham Nassar

Excused: Brenda Fantroy-Johnson

SUQUAMISH ANCESTRAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A. DISCUSSION

B. CO-CHAIRS

- 1) Nominations : James Friday and Savanna Rovelstad nominated
- 2) Vote - Unanimous for James and Savanna as Co-chairs

C. SECRETARY

- 1) Nominations - Jing nominated
- 2) Vote - Unanimous for Jing as Secretary
Renni and Kamara are willing to help out and as backup.

SUBCOMMITTEES DISCUSSION

A. FINANCE

Currently Eric and Kamara are this committee. Willing to continue.

Eric - The job is to figure out our budget and how to access it when we need it.

Vote unanimous for Eric and Kamara for the Finance Subcommittee.

Roz will send out the guidelines via email.

B. LAW AND POLICY

James - We can have a maximum of 4 on a subcommittee.

Renni - I would like to be on it. The city could be pushing things to us instead of us having to go to everything to find out what we should advise the city on.

Eric - I would like to be on it. We have to develop our own procedure where people can come to us with issues, and we should look at where we want to get involved. We need a procedure on how you get something through this committee on policy change.

Jing - I am interested in this subcommittee. We need to expand on our advisory role. The City Council is selective in what comes to us. We need a way for the community to come to us. We need to look at what other cities have done.

Deanna - I would like to help and learn.

Peggi - Our next steps are to get the city trained and develop its own equity plan, that could be part of the strategic plan too. I think there will be overlap.

Renni - I see where the intersection comes with the strategic plan group. A recommendation would have to be drafted and that would be the law and policy subcommittee to draft it and make sure it doesn't get watered down. We need ways to get things in front of the City Council.

James - As policies are developed around the nation, that we don't have to rewrite, we can submit what is already elsewhere.

Vote unanimous for Renni, Jing and Eric for the Law and Policy Subcommittee.

C. EVENTS AND OUTREACH

Currently James, Sue, Peggi and Savanna.

Vote unanimous for James, Sue, Peggi and Savanna for Events and Outreach Subcommittee.

Jing and Deanna would like to help.

D. TRAINING AND GARE

Peggi is the current member.

Peggi - There are meetings every Monday. It is to be a bridge with the regional coordinator, We have to make sure our trainings get set up.

Kamara - I can do power points of trainings through recordings or notes.

Sue - This committee can also look at bringing in other trainings for the community too.

Peggi - We could put on our own trainings and bring in speakers.

Vote unanimous for Peggi and Kamara for Training and GARE Subcommittee.

Deanna and Savanna will help.

E. STRATEGIC PLAN AND WORK PLAN

Peggi- I wrote the last strategic plan and will stay on the subcommittee.

Vote unanimous for Peggi, Renni, Jing and Deanna.

F. CLIMATE CHANGE EQUITY LENS

Deanna and Savanna are current members.

Savanna - I am not up to speed on climate change. We have had exchanges with the Climate Change Advisory Committee. We are looking at our next steps. Our goal is to have an equity lens for the city.

James - Equity lens is a big topic to get involved in other committees, We could make a calendar for attending other meetings and report back.

Deanna - The climate is where it is because of us. We need to use our intersections creatively to come up with solutions. Savanna your expertise is the way you are experiencing climate change, We don't have to be experts, our life experience is our expertise.

James - The City Council brought this to us to develop an equity lens. How should the structure work?

Jing - Everything we work on should be viewed through an equity lens.

Kamara - We could have 1 or 2 liaisons to show up to committee meetings.

Sue - We can invite other committees into our space.

Deanna - We should watch other meetings and have a way to report back.

Peggi - Part of the equity action plan needs to have an equity lens that all the committees can use. A series of questions to ask, We are not there yet. We have to get trainings. We are building the airplane while flying. It will be part of the COBI Race Equity Plan.

Sue - I think that this committee is focused on a CCAC equity lens only.

Jing - There will be intersections with other committees.

Deanna - That is the work right now. We need to get to know each other and develop relationships. My role is to help with the questions that not everyone sees.

Peggi - There are resources in GARE and in Portland on climate change.

Savanna and Deanna voted unanimous for Climate Change Equity Lens Committee

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Rasham - This is about the Wintergreen Apartment project. They have asked REAC to get involved. Brenda and I have attended two meetings with them. The permitting is still preliminary. The developer asked REAC to make recommendations on how equity can be incorporated. This is the largest development in recent years, The issue now is that they may not be able to close on the property because the project needs to make deadlines. How can we make our permitting process for affordable housing less cumbersome? Not just looking at the specifics of this project, a general discussion is needed on the permitting process for affordable housing. The barriers for affordable housing in our code.

Kamara - What has happened?

Sue - We had a developer in public comment last meeting. It is setbacks, additional studies, noise levels.

James - There is a disparity in the definition of affordable housing. We can have a discussion at the next meeting.

Jing - We can learn a lot from Rasham and Brenda, but we can't even experts. The permitting process needs a deep dive.

Peggi - I watched the Design Review Board meeting. they kept adding more things each time. They recommend turning them down. The affordable units would be \$250,000.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Peggi - We need to take action to address Critical Race Theory.

Sue - Quick turnaround for the meeting next week. Send agenda items to me.

ADJOURNMENT – 7:44 PM



James Friday, Chair 8/19/21