

**RACE EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 3, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

REAC members present: Caitlin Lombardi, Eric Stahl, Jing Fong, Lynn Beck, Olivia Hall, Savanna Rovelstad

Excused: Rennie Bispham Raul Camacho

Liaison present: Clarence Moriwaki

Liaison excused: Brenda Fantroy-Johnson

**MOTIONS**

**NOTE: June 1, 2023 minutes were not properly approved at the last meeting. June 1, 2023 agenda (not minutes) was approved.**

**Motion:** I move to approve the June 1, 2023 minutes.

**Savanna/Olivia:** The motion was approved unanimously 6-0.

**Motion:** I move to add the agenda items that Jing suggested after new REAC officers and subcommittees and before updates.

**Olivia/Eric:** The motion was approved unanimously 6-0.

**Motion: I move to nominate Renni and Savanna as co-chairs**

**Eric/Olivia:** The motion was approved unanimously 6-0.

**Motion: I move to nominate Jing as secretary with back-up help from Eric and Lynn.**

**Savanna/Lynn:** The motion was approved unanimously 6-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**NEW TERM: OFFICERS**

Renni and Savanna would like to continue as co-chairs. Their co-chair status was renewed unanimously.

Jing would like to continue as secretary but focus on the agenda while another person(s) focus on the minutes. For the new term, Jing will do the agendas, and Eric and Lynn will take minutes.

**Motion: I move to nominate Renni and Savanna as co-chairs**

**Eric/Olivia:** The motion was approved unanimously 6-0.

**Motion: I move to nominate Jing as secretary with back-up help from Eric and Lynn.**

**Savanna/Lynn:** The motion was approved unanimously 6-0.

**NEW TERM: SUBCOMMITTEES**

Finance.

Law & Policy.

NEW Public Engagement (formerly Outreach/Events).

Strategic Plan (Strategic plan can be considered a 3-5 year plan. Work plan is annual. The current one was approved by the Council on March 24.). Undecided whether this is a standing committee or part of Operations.

Training/GARE to GARE.

NEW Operations (member recruitment, onboarding, administrative to manage SharePoint, development/networking). Essentially internal affairs.

Climate Change Action Committee liaison

NEW Ad hoc committees (issue-driven, temporary)

Drone program

Winslow Subarea Plan

Committees will draft and articulate their tasks.

There was a shift in what the Climate Action Advisory Committee did when Autumn, the climate officer, started. The same will be for REAC. It's hard to predict now what this will mean for REAC. We will have more answers when the new equity manager comes on board!

### **REQUEST TO HELP RECRUIT ACTORS FROM BIMA**

- For 10 years, Araceli Cruz (BIMA) has worked on the play at BIMA to celebrate Dia de Muertos.
- She asked for our support to recruit Latino/Latinx actors for this play.
- Promotion can be reaching out to community partners, posting the flyer on personal networks.
- \*Flyer read at the REAC meeting as a public announcement.

### **DISPOSABLE FOOD SERVICE WARE**

A week ago, Savanna received a message from former REAC member Kamara about an incident that occurred at one of our local markets. A man with ALS, who cannot speak, wanted to eat at the market and was unable to receive utensils because you are required to ask for utensils. When the man's wife inquired with the market about this experience, the market advised them to contact the city council.

At the August 8 city council meeting, the disposable food service ware policy will be up for discussion. There's a subcommittee that is looking into how the existing policy is doing.

The family offered concrete solutions:

Provide metal utensils that could be used again.

Offer compostable utensils

Review policy and clarify code so it isn't confusing to businesses

This incident demonstrates that there needs to be better communication between city and businesses for how this policy does (or doesn't) work.

Current policy: Have to ask for the utensils. Purpose is to reduce waste.

Bigger picture: Business owners and community folks have felt the impacts of this policy. REAC's work is to work on policies that impact our community. I wish we could have worked on this policy to make sure something like this didn't happen. The City Council needs to take advantage of REAC and Anshu more often in the future to gain insight from us and community members. One of the primary tools in the equity tool kit is to talk to your community. This is an example of what can happen when you don't talk to your community or sufficiently talk to your community.

### **GAS-POWERED LANDSCAPE TOOLS SURVEY**

On July 12, Jing learned through a Facebook group that the city posted a gas-powered landscape tools survey, which asked for responses by July 30. This appears to be the first step in gauging public opinion on a public ordinance switching from gas-powered to electric or battery powered landscaping.

The survey is on Engage Bainbridge and on the City's Facebook page. While the survey was translated into Spanish and there was much effort to engage people in this survey, what is the likelihood a landscaper will go to Engage Bainbridge or the city's FB page? If we are to get the voices, opinions, perspectives, and experiences of people who will be impacted—and impacted the most—there has to be direct outreach.

While a business owner or homeowner would be more likely to go on Engage Bainbridge or the city's FB page, there's also a power dynamic (and time consideration) of having a business or homeowner ask their landscapers for their opinions.

I'd like REAC to engage with the City in getting the perspectives of landscapers. Who to talk to, how to talk with landscapers from the very beginning. We even suggested in the past that the City might work with some landscapers to pilot this.

REAC issued a recommendation (Aug. 2022). Number two in the suggestion says "proactively speak to these stakeholders to gain a first-hand account of how they believe the policy will change their business. This is not a survey (written in bold). This is a collection of qualitative conversations. Please go prepared with strategies to have these conversations in languages other than English.

To the City: If we were to do this again, what is a better way to do what we're aiming to achieve? Ellen will get back to us on this question.

The Climate Action officer worked with the Climate Action Committee on this. There's a CCAC subcommittee working on engagement activities. This is an example of how having a REAC liaison with CCAC would be beneficial.

### **UPDATES**

#### **\*CITY COUNCIL-REAC TRAINING (Lynn)**

- A contract has been sent to and signed by Scott Winn to provide three four-hour workshops with City Council and REAC. Preference for the room.
- Proposed dates:
  - Sat. Oct. 7 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. (Lynn, Savanna, Olivia, Caitlin, Eric – prefer)
  - Tues. Oct. 17, 10:30 a.m. -3 p.m. (Olivia – prefer, Jing, Caitlin – maybe)
  - Wed. Nov. 1: 4 p.m. -8:30 p.m. (Lynn, Savanna, Olivia, Caitlin, Eric if necessary, Jing)

## **WINSLOW SUBAREA PLAN (Olivia)**

- Emailed steering committee members about who they've been talking to.
- Would like to speak with the facilitator about the GARE tool kit.
- Eric will join Renni and Olivia on this subcommittee.

## **JUNETEENTH RECAP**

Tabled to next meeting when Mayor Fantroy-Johnson can join.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE PROGRESS**

- A. Outreach/Engagement
- B. Finance
- C. GARE/Training
- D. Law & Policy
- E. Strategic Plan

This discussion was incorporated in the new term discussion.

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING REPORT**

- Last week's Council meeting was canceled.
- Next meetings will be Aug. 8 (business) and 15 (study). Eric and Olivia will report next month.
- Eric will have a new council reporting schedule next month.

## **REAC ITEMS**

\*Reminder: Aug. 26 Farmer's Market (Eric, Savanna and Lynn).

\*Recruiting for Cultural Funding and Lodging Tax Advisory (LTAC) Committees (Ellen)

- Need help finding people to serve. Must live on the island and not be a board member or staff of an applying organization.
- Also, would like support spreading the word to applying organizations. It's a two-year grant cycle. Most organizations received grants between \$10k to \$30k.
- Members of standing committees are eligible to apply. Task force memberships need and benefit from cultural diversity.

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Olivia met with Rakesh from the Drone Program. He's looking for a recommendation from REAC on its handbook and program.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

  
Co-Chair 09/07/2023