

Race Equity Advisory Committee October 7, 2021 Minutes

Call to Order

Present: REAC members James Friday, Savanna Rovelstad, Eric Stahl, Peggi Erickson, Renni Bispham, Jing Fong. City Council Liaisons Rasham Nassar and Brenda Fantroy-Johnson.

Excused: Deanna Martinez, Sue Wilmot, Kamara Blackwell.

October 7 Agenda and Minutes

No modifications were made to agenda or minutes.

Moved by Peggi Erickson, seconded by Renni Bispham to approve the minutes. Minutes approved unanimously.

No conflict of interest. There was no public comment .

Lara Hansen, Climate Change Advisory Committee and EcoAdapt Founder

- Lara Hansen is a member of the city's Climate Change Advisory Committee and heads up a nonprofit called EcoAdapt. EcoAdapt helps communities, government agencies, nonprofits, neighborhood groups, and whomever is interested in incorporating climate science into their decisions.
- Lara would like to add equity questions into a current climate tool that the city uses to assess capital investments and permitting decisions. The climate tool, without the equity questions, is currently being tested by some city staff. They used it on the senior center remodeling as a test.
- Brenda asked if it would be a benefit to have community weigh in first-hand about impact instead of a staff person, developer, or project manager answering these questions. Lara liked the possibility of an online opportunity for the community to comment on benefits and/or impact and said it's going to be challenging for the city to figure out a mechanism to directly reach out to people impacted.
- James offered insights on the erosion on Rolling Bay Walk over the last 30 years. His biggest concern with the public is not having any input and being impacted by systems they have no control over.
- Lara would love REAC's input on race equity questions to add to the current tool and then encourage the city to use the tool. If we can change the way local government makes decisions, we can get better outcomes.

Action: REAC gathers comments on what equity questions should be included in the tool. Get these comments to Deanna and Savanna (subcommittee on Climate Change) a few days ahead of our next meeting to discuss before the full REAC.

Subcommittee Progress

Finance

Eric moved key financial documents on expenses and budgeting into Notebook If you need to know anything about submitting expenses or getting anything approved, the documents are in the Finance folder.

Law and Policy

- Jing commented that Law and Policy is looking into the role of liaisons and how this policy is written in the governance manual. The committee has some questions and concerns about the policy's limitations on our liaisons' ability to interact with us.
- James feels that we need to address how REAC would like to interact with our liaisons. REAC doesn't have all the information we should be privy to and it's hindering the process for us to be effective.
- Renni talked about the city's responsibility to start pushing issues/big projects we should pay attention to so we aren't left unaware or responding at the last minute. We don't have the time to wade through the volumes of information out there.
- Rasham shared that REAC was established to make recommendations and it's not being used for that for that intended goal. REAC might want to start thinking about having Council identify policy decisions for its review and recommendation.
- Peggi would like to see race equity added to the city council's six values in front of the hearing room.
- Eric said that he doesn't read anything in those guidelines that say a liaison can't provide information on what might be of interest to us.

Events and Outreach

- Peggi is thinking about doing a mini monthly sound bite, an education snippet, on equity from this committee to the Council, the city manager. Also, planning a series of educational events next year.
- James shared that he and John Kydd had a conversation about an education series (not just on environmental issues).

Training and GARE

- Peggi intends to set an appointment with Blair to talk about training the city is doing.
- Brenda reached out to Ellen to renew our GARE membership and will follow through to make sure it happened.
- Peggi mentioned that Bremerton's REAC would like to have a joint meeting with us to talk about the work we're both trying to do.
- The fourth Thursday of the month is available to both groups. Peggi will contact Bremerton REAC.

Strategic Plan and Work Plan

- Jing mentioned that she and Renni fleshed out a draft strategic plan that has more work to do. Strategies focus on building and strengthening relationships with community and the city, reaching out to the community to expand awareness of and take action on race equity.
- James appreciates everyone's hard work. He would like a report from each committee on its direction, priorities, and decisions each month so he can stay informed.
- Renni: suggested that committees write meeting notes in Notebook and email James their priorities monthly. If James wants more details, he can click on committee link.

Climate Change Equity Lens

Lara Hansen presented to REAC.

City Council Meeting Report

- Rasham informed REAC that city council made decisions on ARPA Funds: \$3.7 million for affordable housing, \$2 million for sustainable transportation, \$1 million for a feasibility study on a water reuse plant, \$60k for human services funding, \$50k for solar panels.
- Eric shared takeaways from observing city council meetings:
 1. Now is probably the time to start thinking about REAC's thoughts on the police station as opposed to waiting for somebody to ask.
 2. There is an intergovernmental cooperation agreement (like a Memorandum of Understanding) between the city and the tribe 20 years ago to deal with particular issues.
- Brenda offered to talk through what happened at city council meetings with REAC observers if desired.

Good of the Order

- Peggi will be gone for November but will attend REAC meetings and monitor city council meetings per the schedule.
- Jing told REAC that Scott Winn, who was hired by the city as a race equity consultant, will be on our agenda for Oct. 21. She asked REAC members for their input on what they would like on the agenda and what they are curious about from Scott Winn.
- Renni found the city council monitoring schedule. James will take Oct. 12, then he's done. Peggi will take Oct. 12, 19, 26.
- Kamara has resigned from REAC. James thanked her for her service. She's been a great asset —her smile, laugh, and youth have been a blessing. We're going to miss her.

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Savanna Rovelstad

Savanna Rovelstad, Co-Chair 10/21/21