

Town of Fairfax
Racial Equity and Social Justice Committee (RESJ)
Special Meeting
Via teleconference due to COVID-19
Thursday, November 5, 2020

Facilitator Jimenez called the Special meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order/Roll Call:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Patrece Bryan
Veronica Geretz
Amal
Tayu Neogy
Griselda Hernandez
Serena Campbell
Daria Sievers
Alexandra Rosem
Lisel Blash
Layli Shirani
Sophia Martin
Stephanie Hellman (Councilmember)
Bruce Ackerman (Councilmember)

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Garrett Toy, Town Manager
Anne Mannes
Lisa Jimenez, Facilitator

Approval of Agenda and Affidavit of Posting

The committee approved the agenda and the Affidavit of Posting.

Regular Agenda

1. Conduct the first meeting of the RESJ Committee to discuss/consider the following general topics (order and time approximate) and take action as appropriate:
 - A. Opening
 - Introductions
 - RESJ Purpose
 - The Power of Why
 - Meeting Roles

Facilitator Jimenez asked for introductions, discussed the purpose and scope of the work, asked each member to discuss his or her “Why”, and talked about meeting roles including timekeeper, note taker, etc.

- B. Racial Equity
 - Racial Equity Considerations
 - Liberatory Design
 - Dialogue

Facilitator Jimenez gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding norms, roles, reflection, and group discussion.

C. RESJ Development

- RESJ Phases
- Understanding the Landscape
- Brainstorming of Action Items and Inquiry Items
- Data Collection
- Next Steps

Each committee member discussed the most salient issues in the community that need to be addressed, three issues a member would like to more deeply understand, and issues that are important but are not urgent. Comments included raising awareness for microaggressions; how to be more aware of what you are saying; creating a better sense of community; lack of diversity; racism in schools; lack of awareness of historical trauma; bigotry experienced by immigrants; invisibility of the immigrant community; frustration of people who do not have access to resources; black safety; acknowledgement of the existence of racism; racism in education; the need for more affordable housing; hostility towards outsiders; lack of self-awareness about roles and responsibilities; the need for community education and engagement; programs should focus on data (surveys, etc.); understanding white privilege; re-visioning policing; allocation of resources for the community; bias as a construct; gender inclusiveness.

D. Formation of Subcommittee to discuss policing

- Quorum limitations
- Members

The committee discussed the formation and composition of the subcommittee for exploring alternative Police practices. There was a show of hands for members who would like to serve. It was decided there would be six committee members, not including youth members. One of the six members should be a Councilmember.

E. Public Comment

Facilitator Jimenez opened the meeting to public comments.

Richard Applebaum suggested the committee develop a Vision/Mission Statement.

Megan thanked the members for serving on the committee and volunteered to help work with the schools.

Brandon Johnson and Joe McGarry supported the work of the committee.

Facilitator Jimenez closed the meeting to public comments.

F. Next Meeting

- Time and Date
- Items for next meeting
- Appreciations
- Closing comments

Facilitator Jimenez stated the next meeting would be established via a Doodle Poll. The agenda would be created on a collaborative basis.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni DeFrancis
Recording Secretary