

Town of Fairfax
Racial Equity and Social Justice Committee (RESJ)
Regular Meeting
Via teleconference due to COVID-19
Thursday, January 7, 2021

Committee member Hellman called the Regular 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
Stephanie Hellman (Councilmember)
Bruce Ackerman (Councilmember)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Sophia Martin

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

Approval of Agenda and Affidavit of Posting

M/s, Bryan/Sievers, to approve the agenda and Affidavit of posting.

Ayes: All

Absent: Martin

Regular Agenda

1. Conduct the meeting of the RESJ Committee to discuss/consider the following general topics (order and time approximate) and take action as appropriate:
 - A. Opening
 - Agenda review
 - Process observer role review
 - Assign meeting roles

Facilitator Jimenez gave a PowerPoint presentation.

Committee member Geretz volunteered to be the timekeeper. Facilitator Jimenez displayed the process observation form and Committee member Blash volunteered to be the process observer.

B. Norm Finalization

- Review final norms from the retreat
- Creation of operational norms

Facilitator Jimenez presented Jamboard and asked committee members to post three significant operational norms. These included the following: cell phones on silent or off, permission to have images turned off, fixed start and end time for meetings, facilitator will give homework in moderation, ask for responses in terms of editing documents, attend the full meeting, respect for confidentiality, engagement throughout, no “no-shows”, no talking over someone, brainstorming done before the meeting, actionable pre-work in moderation.

The committee discussed how they feel about the list of norms.

Facilitator Jimenez asked committee members if they prefer a break as needed (decided by committee member) or an agenda break. The consensus was for the former.

The consensus was to accept the norms at this time.

C. Committee Development

- Confirm current focus areas
- Action item: Consider the formation of additional subcommittees

Facilitator Jimenez displayed the focus areas which included the following: education, engagement, Town policy, Policing and safety, work force economy, and coalition.

The committee discussed the possible formation of additional subcommittees including Economic Mobility. The committee discussed the idea of bundling some of the topics such as education with engagement and Town policies with economic policies.

Facilitator Jimenez opened the meeting to public comments.

There were no comments.

Facilitator Jimenez closed the meeting to public comments.

M/s, Geretz/Campbell, to establish an Education and Engagement Ad Hoc Subcommittee of the RESJ.

Ayes: All

Absent: Martin

M/s, Hellman/Sievers, to stand up a Town Policy Ad Hoc Subcommittee which is inclusive of economic mobility programs.

Ayes: All

Absent: Martin

D. Subcommittee reports

- Policing Subcommittee upcoming meeting and discuss interest in having a Facilitator

Facilitator Jimenez recused herself from the meeting while the committee discussed the facilitator issue.

The committee discussed whether or not to have a facilitator for the Policing Subcommittee.

Committee member Ackerman stated the Policing Subcommittee would be meeting soon. A Duddle Poll will be sent out.

Facilitator Jimenez came back to the meeting.

M/s, Hellman/Sievers, motion to push off the report on the Mission and Vision Statement and item E, "Vacant RESJ Committee member seats" to the next meeting.

- Report from Ad Hoc Mission and Vision Subcommittee

This item was continued.

E. Vacant RESJ Committee member seats

- Action item: Consider filing vacant seats and the process for doing so

This item was continued.

F. Public Comment

Facilitator Jimenez opened the meeting for comments on items on the agenda.

Brian Poindexter stated they need to apply some urgency with respect to the Police Subcommittee. He asked if it was appropriate for the Mayor to participate in the committee.

Xiana stated having a Councilmember on a subcommittee is a conflict of interest.

Joe McGarry stated the Police Subcommittee needs to pick up the pace since the Memorandum of Understanding with the Police Department expires on June 30th.

Facilitator Jimenez closed the meeting for comments on items on the agenda.

Facilitator Jimenez opened the meeting for comments on items not on the agenda.

There were no comments.

Facilitator Jimenez closed the meeting for comments on items not on the agenda.

G. Next Meeting

- Items for next meeting
 1. Government Alliance on Racial Equity (GARE)
- Appreciations
- Closing comments

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni DeFrancis
Recording Secretary