

Town of Fairfax
Racial Equity and Social Justice Committee (RESJ)
Special Meeting
Via teleconference due to COVID-19
Thursday, January 28, 2021

Staff member Mannes called the Special meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Call to Order/Roll Call:

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Serena Campbell
Sophia Martin

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

Approval of Agenda and Affidavit of Posting

The committee approved the agenda and Affidavit of Posting.

Regular Agenda

1. Conduct a special meeting of the RESJ Committee to discuss/consider the following general topics (order and time approximate) and take action as appropriate:
 - A. Discuss how to engage with community event of the Marin County District Attorney (DA) being held on February 4th regarding decision not to press charges for the Fairfax Swastika Case

Committee member Hellman gave a report and noted the event will include a panel of speakers.

- B. Development of questions to consider for the DA community forum event on February 4th
 - Compile list of questions
 - Assign roles to committee members

The committee discussed possible questions including: 1) What will be the DA's thinking and decision-making process? 2) Will they be mindful of the consequences of prosecution? 3) How

to avoid engaging someone into the criminal justice system; 4) How to create solidarity and strength; 5) How to “call in” instead of “call out”; 5) How to create lasting solutions; 6) What does accountability look like? 6) How to be trauma informed; 7) A description of laws on what constitutes a hate crime.

Committee member Hellman opened the meeting to public comments.

Elias Karkabi referred to the term “restorative justice” and suggested using the term “restorative practices”.

Richard Applebaum urged the committee to show up at the meeting and be in the dialogue.

Sandy Handsher stated she is a believer in restorative justice.

Roberta Anthes stated they need to ask the questions that the DA will not answer. She read a list of questions that should be asked.

Joe McGarry was concerned about the cases that the DA has chosen not to pursue.

Jess Lerner agreed with Mr. McGarry that this could be a political maneuver. The committee should be a part of it.

Committee member Hellman closed the meeting to public comments.

The committee’s main points included: 1) This affects everybody; 2) There should be more transparency and clarity with respect to the decision-making process; 3) A request for more specificity; 4) Restorative justice piece; 5) What more would the DA need to prosecute? 6) People are watching; 7) Share record on prosecutions.

The committee discussed the possibility of enacting a local ordinance.

- Assign roles to committee members

C. Public Comment

There was none.

D. Next Meeting

- Items for next meeting

There were none.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni DeFrancis
Recording Secretary