

Town of Fairfax
Racial Equity and Social Justice Committee (RESJ)
Special Meeting
Via teleconference due to COVID-19
Thursday, May 25, 2021

Facilitator Rodriguez called the Regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order/Roll Call:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Veronica Geretz
Tayu Neogy
Griselda Hernandez
Serena Campbell
Alexandra Rosem
Lisel Blash
Sophia Martin
Bruce Ackerman (Councilmember)

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Anne Mannes, Staff member
Lisa Jimenez, Facilitator

Approval of Agenda and Affidavit of Posting

M/s, Neogy/Geretz, to approve the agenda and affidavit of posting.

Ayes: All

Regular Agenda

1. Conduct the meeting of the RESJ Committee to discuss/consider the following general topics and take action as appropriate:

A. Opening

- Land Acknowledgement
- Assign meeting roles
- Norms review

Committee member Neogy volunteered to be the timekeeper and Committee member Hernandez volunteered to be the process observer.

B. Follow up after the racist incident that occurred in San Anselmo

- Open dialogue
- Brainstorm ways to create a safe space to do anti-racist work
- Possible recommendations to the Council

The Committee discussed the incident and the possible recommendations to the Council including: 1) Consider making the RESJ not subject to the Brown Act, 2) Discontinue recording the meetings; 3) Mental health resources for RESJ members.

Facilitator Jimenez opened the meeting to public comments.

Tiffany McElroy stated it was important to keep the narrative real.

Facilitator Jimenez closed the meeting to public comments

M/s, Geretz/Rosem, to recommend to the Council the following: 1) Remove the RESJ from Brown Act requirements and consider the group as a task force; 2) Stop recording RESJ meetings and remove videos from Town Website; 3) Remove RESJ Committee members names from the Website and documents; 4) Provide mental health support to RESJ members.
Ayes: All

C. RESJ Chair

- Discuss changing RESJ Chair to non-white RESJ members
- Consider election of new RESJ Chair

Facilitator Jimenez stated this is a follow-up discussion from a previous meeting.

Committee member Neogy asked if there is a requirement to have two Councilmembers on the RESJ. Committee member Ackerman stated that would be a Council decision.

Committee member Rosem supported having two Chairs that are people of color.

Facilitator Jimenez opened the meeting to public comments.

There were no comments.

Facilitator Jimenez closed the meeting to public comments

Committee member Blash suggested revisiting this item in four to six months after new members are appointed.

M/s, Blash/Geretz, to revisit this issue until after new committee members are recruited.
Ayes: All

D. New committee members and application process

- Presentation of application options
- Discussion of options

Committee member Ackerman gave a report.

The Committee discussed the options and supported Option D. Formation of an ad hoc subcommittee was discussed.

Facilitator Jimenez opened the meeting to public comments.

There were no comments.

Facilitator Jimenez closed the meeting to public comments.

M/s, Campbell/Hernandez, to select application process Option D and form an ad hoc subcommittee consisting of Committee members Rosem, Hernandez, Neogy, and Campbell.
Ayes: All

E. Public Comments Items on the Agenda

There were no comments.

F. Closing

- Next steps review
- Items for next meeting
- Process Observation report out.
- Appreciations

Staff member Mannes discussed the next steps.

The following would be on an upcoming agenda: 1) A report on the budget requests; 2) Report from application ad hoc subcommittee.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni DeFrancis
Recording Secretary