

Town of Fairfax
Racial Equity and Social Justice Committee (RESJ)
Regular Meeting
Via teleconference due to COVID-19
Thursday, August 5, 2021

Chair Ackerman called the Regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order/Roll Call:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Veronica Geretz
Tayu Neogy
Serena Campbell
Lisel Blash
Bruce Ackerman (Councilmember)
Chance Cutrano (Councilmember)

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Anne Mannes, Staff member

Approval of Agenda and Affidavit of Posting

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

Land Acknowledgement
Assign meeting roles
Review norms

Committee member Cutrano volunteered to be the timekeeper and Committee member Geretz volunteered to be the process observer.

Regular Agenda

1. Discuss and consider Housing Element presentation by Planning Director Ben Berto and Housing Element consultants at the July 1, 2021 RESJ meeting

Chair Ackerman opened the meeting to public comments.

Mr. Mark Bell asked how the public can make comments on the topic tonight without a presentation.

Chair Ackerman closed the meeting to public comments.

Andi Flowers, consultant, stated he would be happy to answer any questions. An attempt is being made to get the public engaged in this process by putting up flyers, etc.

Committee member Blash wanted to make sure that outreach is being made to the senior affordable housing complexes, lower income community members, the Farmer Market, and churches.

Committee member Cutrano asked about the outreach to schools.

2. Discuss proposed edits to the Fairfax General Plan as presented by Shelley Hamilton at the July 1, 2021 RESJ meeting, and consider recommendation to the Council.

Chair Ackerman stated Ms. Hamilton is not available tonight.

Chair Ackerman opened the meeting to public comments.

Naomi supported the proposed edits.

Patrece Bryant supported the concept but stated the execution is not close to what it should be. This should be focus grouped by people of color.

Mark Bell agreed with the comments made by the former speaker. Fairfax is a “small Town”.

Chair Ackerman closed the meeting to public comments.

Committee member Blash stated this is a good first step.

Committee members Neogy and Campbell resigned from the RESJ Committee.

3. Review and discussion of recent Council decisions regarding RESJ and public comment received.

The Committee had a discussion about the future of the RESJ.

4. Receive report from Police Practices and Public Safety Alternatives Subcommittee

There was no report.

5. Receive report from Community Education Subcommittee

There was no report.

Open time for public comments on items on the agenda

John Ramaides stated the committee could be more reflective in its approach- it is a two-way street.

Naomi stated she had hope for the committee and is disappointed in the Town.

Jess Lerner thanked the committee.

Mark Bell discussed how the new task force could communicate with the public in a non-divisive way.

Debra (Dee Lee) Benson thanked the committee for its well-intended efforts. Social equity and racial justice involves a dialogue.

Dr. Jody Timms thanked the committee for its time and efforts.

Jane Richardson Mack stated disagreeing with the committee was taken as “harmful” comments. There has never been a real dialogue between the public and the committee.

Closing

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni DeFrancis
Recording Secretary