



The REAC met at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 24, 2021, at the Mebane Arts and Community Center, located at 633 Corregidor St.

REAC Members Present:

Schenita Randolph
Travis Albritton
Daniel Velasquez
Keisha Bluford
Tomeka Ward-Satterfield
Stuart Smith

REAC Members Absent:

Tommy Jones

Council Present:

Councilmember Patty Philipps
Councilmember Tim Bradley
Councilmember Sean Ewing

City Staff Present:

City Manager, Chris Rollins
HR Director, Beatrice Hunter

Councilmember Phillips called the meeting to order. She noted that Mayor Hooks was not able to attend the meeting and had asked that she facilitate as needed in his absence.

The Committee expressed that it wanted an introduction to local government and how it is set up. Mr. Rollins advised that an orientation to City government would be provided. Department Heads would also attend and give an overview of the functions of their departments.

The City had planned to provide census data at this meeting; however, it is still not available. There is no clear date as to when this information will be released. We expect it soon.

Ms. Hunter will provide internal demographic data to the Committee.

Mr. Albritton provided an update about facilitators for the retreat. There are 2 individuals he would like the Committee to consider. The first is his former dissertation chair, Dr. Sylvia Bettez at UNCG. She has worked with the Greensboro Parks and Recreation department, leading team building and goal setting sessions. The second is a research scientist, Dr. Allison DeMarco, at Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, where she focuses on racial equity and social justice. It was suggested that Dr. Bettez and Dr. DeMarco share a proposal for consideration.

City staff department heads are to participate in the retreat.

Upcoming meetings and future priorities for the Committee were discussed:

1. City Government 101
2. Focus groups- The Committee plans to meet with the other applicants who were not selected for the Committee, to engage them and ascertain why they applied and what they had hoped to achieve.
3. Conduct listening sessions with the larger community
4. Hold the Committee retreat

Ms. Phillips brought to the Committee's attention that they may want to elect a Committee Chair run the meetings, set the agenda, call folks for comment, approve motions and votes. The group agreed that after two more meetings, they would decide on a Chair.

The Committee discussed the accountability of members, and the importance that each member attends each meeting.

It was requested that Ms. Hunter send the Committee a list of Department Heads, to include their email addresses and City organizational charts. It was also requested that she send Department Heads an overview regarding the REAC, so they are familiar.

The Committee elected to start recording their meetings, beginning with the September 8 meeting. Mr. Velasquez agreed to capture the messages that come through on the chat (for virtual meetings).

The Committee discussed meeting guidelines and advertisement of meetings. The Committee decided not to broadcast their meetings to Youtube. Meetings will be shared with Committee members' social networks, the City of Mebane Facebook page, with the press, and advertisement in the paper. Ms. Hunter will provide a flyer to post to these channels.

The Committee will allow 2 minutes maximum to those providing public comments.

The Committee will institute the wearing of masks at REAC meetings.

The Committee calendared upcoming meetings:

Wednesday, September 8 at 1pm: Gov 101 with Administration and Department Heads (MACC)

Wednesday, September 22 at 6pm: Focus Group (MACC)

Tuesday, October 12 at 6pm (in person): Listening Session (MACC)

Wednesday, October 13 at 6pm (Zoom): Listening Session (Virtual)

Saturday, November 13, 8:30am-1pm: Retreat (MACC)

The Committee determined that it would like the Council to attend the November 13th retreat. As it is an election year, all candidates running for Council will be advised of the meeting date so that they may attend if elected.

The Committee discussed that they would like to ask Department Heads a series of questions at the Gov 101 meeting:

What do you do?

How long have you worked in Mebane?

What is the total number of staff in your department?

What do you think the REAC Committee will accomplish?

What can you do to help serve the REAC Committee?

How can the REAC Committee benefit your department?

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm.