

COBI Race Equity Advisory Committee Minutes—January 8, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Members present: Renni Bispham, Olivia Hall, Caitlin Lombardi, Eric Stahl.

Excused: Lynn Beck, Raul Camacho, Jing Fong

Liaisons: Brenda Fantroy-Johnson, Jon Quitslund

Also present: E&I Manager Anshu Wahi

MOTIONS

Motion to accept November 7, 2024 minutes. Approved 4-0 (Lombardi/Hall)

Motion to accept agenda as presented. Approved 4-0 (Stahl/Hall)

Motion to hold a joint City Council/REAC meeting for training on the Racial Equity Toolkit at the March 6 REAC meeting. Approved 4-0 (Hall/Stahl)

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

THE ELECTION AND REAC

a. Summary of meeting with City Manager and Police Chief:

Following up on the safety discussion at our last meeting, Olivia, Renni and Anshu met with Police Chief Clark. One point of discussion was whether to move REAC meetings to business hours. We are the only City volunteer commission that meets after hours. It may make sense for us to meet earlier if we can agree on a time. Late afternoons might be a good alternative but we will continue the discussion with the rest of the committee Anshu will circulate a scheduling survey.

Other safety measures could include “incident training” from Chief Clark. Chairs will also continue their regular meetings with him.

b. “Welcoming and Inclusive City” status:

Anshu provided an update on existing City provisions, including a 2017 “Welcoming and Inclusive City” Ordinance (2017-06) and a superseding “sanctuary state” statute, RCW 10.93.160. Both provide restrictions on police inquiring into individuals’ immigration status unless required by law or court order. Federal law may limit further limitations.

Council member Fantroy-Johnson pointed out the Race Equity Task Force was the group that promoted the “Welcoming City” provision to the City.

Discussion was held about recommending to City Council that it reaffirm the commitment to these provisions, and promote them in City publications. Members should give public comment at Council meeting.

Report out item: REAC recommends that Council take up a resolution reaffirming and publicizing the City's Welcoming and Inclusive City Ordinance

c. Immigrant solidarity:

Discussion held about request from Kitsap Advocating for Immigrant Rights & Equality asking for assistance in promoting immigration rights and defense resources. The information has been forwarded to BIPD Chief Clark and will be maintained as a resource.

d. Possible Restructuring of Task Forces

Continued discussion on shifting from subcommittees to project-based tasks forces. Current task forces:

- i. Winslow Sub-area Plan is currently just Olivia
- ii. Guiding Principles is Eric, Caitlin, Jing (Renni is no longer on this one)
- iii. Zero Emissions is Jing, Raul, Lynn

Provisional discussion held about sunsetting the Technology task force, to be continued with full membership

Outreach/Community Events currently has no members

We may take up an Immigrant Rights task force. Tabled for now.

EQUITY AND INCLUSION MANAGER REPORT

a. Racial Equity Toolkit training

Anshu reported that the toolkit is in its final steps before becoming operational. Scott Winn will be conducting training sessions on February 12 for the City Council. Discussion held about Scott offering a joint council/REAC training at our next meeting March 6

Motion: To hold a joint City Council/REAC meeting for training on the Racial Equity Toolkit at the March 6 REAC meeting. Approved 4-0 (Hall/Stahl)

b. REAC Workplan 2025

This is scheduled to be presented to the City Council at its March 18 study session. Our 2024 plan was adopted in June 2024 so we are only 6 months into it; we could ask for an extension. Renni and Eric to meet with Anshu ahead of next REAC meeting to review and make recommendations for the February REAC meeting.

REGULAR BUSINESS

a. Bystander Training update

The same organization that provided our prior bystander training (Healing Equity United) will be doing another session of its “1.0” training on March 29, 2025. A “2.0” training, open to those who attended one of the 1.0 trainings, will be April 26.

b. Task Force Reports

i. Winslow Sub-area Plan: Olivia reports there has been some community pushback about proposed density increase in order to create affordable housing. Olivia plans to present REAC’s letter on this issue during public comment at the Planning Commission meetings.

Discussion was held about bringing forward our thoughts on the Guiding Principles (which are from the Comprehensive Plan and could be amended as part of the comp plan update). To be discussed at our next meeting

ii. Zero Emissions: Discussion tabled

c. City Council Meeting Report Renni read Lynn’s emailed summary. Eric to update council review schedule

d. Report Out Items for Council:

REAC recommends City Council take up a resolution reaffirming the City’s Welcoming and Inclusive City Ordinance and the commitments in it.

e. Other Items: Olivia reported BARN invited REAC to come for a tour and learn about its equity policies. Caitlin and Olivia will follow up.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Olivia: Ralph Hua’s celebration of life will be rescheduled.:

Anshu: MLK Day proclamation will be presented at City Council January 14. MLK event will be held January 19 at BIMA