

COBI Race Equity Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes—March 6, 2025

Note: The regular meeting was shortened to a half-hour due to a 2-hour training with City Council members following the meeting. Training was on how to operationalize the racial equity toolkit.

CALL TO ORDER

Members present: Lynn Beck, Renni Bispham, Olivia Hall, Caitlin Lombardi, Jing Fong

Liaisons present: Jon Quitslund

Equity and Inclusion Manager present: Anshu Wahi

Council members present: Joe Deets, Brenda Fantroy-Johnson, Leslie Schneider, Jon Quitslund

Consultant present: Scott Winn

Members excused: Eric Stahl

MOTIONS

February 14, 2025, minutes.

➤ **Motion:** I move to approve the modified February 14, 2025, minutes.

Renni/Caitlin: The motion was approved unanimously 4-0.

➤ **Motion:** I move to accept the March 6, 2025, agenda.

Jing/Renni: The motion was approved unanimously 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was given.

EQUITY & INCLUSION MANAGER'S REPORT

Note: Anshu noted that there was quorum notice for this special meeting.

New REAC meeting time. This is the last regular meeting scheduled for 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. The new REAC regular meeting time will be 3 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. Next meeting is April 14. Goal is to finish the meeting by 4:45.

Presentation of REAC workplan to Council (March 18). REAC workplan is in the study session agenda packet. Time allotted is 15 minutes total: 10 minutes for presentation and 5 minutes for questions from Council. Olivia will make the presentation.

Something New: Public art submissions and jury. Arts & Humanities is looking for new submissions and jury members for its annual public arts program. There is a hope that artists from diverse backgrounds will send submit their work and that a REAC member would like to be on the jury. Deadline for artists is April 1. The jury will meet from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., April 14. Submissions will be reviewed that weekend.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Bystander Training. Flyers and information are ready to go for the March 29 training. Training is similar to last year but comes at a more crucial time with the new administration

and change in climate. Spread the word! There will be a 2.0 training next month. Participants must have completed the 1.0 training (this year or last). It will be a smaller group and involve deeper discussion and role-play.

Letter to City Council on development of 625 Winslow Way. Lynn thanked Caitlin, Renni and Anshu for support in writing the letter on behalf of REAC to the City Council to express interest and involvement with the community space and other features of the 625 Winslow Way housing project. Affordable Housing Task Force members Lynn and Olivia would like to go on the April 1 field trip to tour some Low-Income Housing Institute (LIHI) sites in Seattle. Blair thinks that's a great opportunity for REAC.

REPORT OUT ITEM(S) FOR COUNCIL

- 1) Bystander training announcement. Please announce that training is happening on March 29 and encourage people to sign up. Space is limited. It's first-come, first-served.
- 2) Citizen Advisory Committee membership change. This is a report out item from the February REAC meeting. We asked if it was possible to expand membership and who could apply. We've had the experience where someone has deep ties to the island—their kids attend school here, they have a business here, but they don't live here - wants to be a part of REAC but can't because of the requirement they must be a Bainbridge Island resident. Can those applications be considered? REAC would like council to put this on the agenda for discussion. Timing is sensitive since committee applications will be considered in June.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

83rd Anniversary of the Day of Forced Removal. Commemoration will be 11-noon on Sunday, March 30 at the Japanese Exclusion Memorial. That same day, at 1:30 p.m. at BIMA, Densho will scan photographs and interview people who were incarcerated due to Executive Order 9066.

Bremerton pivots on decision to hire DEI officer. REAC was preparing a letter to weigh in on hiring a DEI officer. Since then, the mayor rescinded his pause and is prepared to hire an officer. This now changes the purpose of the REAC letter.

Winslow Shuttle. Councilmembers Schneider, Hytopoulos, and Mathews are hosting a "collaboration café" around the idea of a Winslow shuttle. It'll be on March 17 at the Rowing Center. Hoping for 50 people and looking forward to hosting this style of community engagement.

Proclamation for Women's History Month. On March 11, West Sound Soccer Academy will receive the proclamation. Anshu especially liked the soccer club's broad and inclusionary definition of girlhood.

ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.