

COBI Race Equity Advisory Committee Minutes—April 14, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

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

Excused: Jing Fong

Liaisons: Ashley Mathews, Jon Quitslund

Also present: E&I Manager Anshu Wahi

MOTIONS

Motion to accept agenda as presented. Approved 5-0

REPORT OUT

- Mayor Mathews to put on the Council's April 22 agenda the issue of loosening the residency requirement for advisory committee membership.
- Manager Wahi to discuss with City Manager assuring that the race equity tool kit is applied to the ongoing Comp Plan discussion about creating an affordable housing overlay zone.
- Manager Wahi to report to City Manager REAC recommendations regarding the "Guiding Principles" for the Comp Plan and general City use.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPRECIATION FOR DEPARTING REAC MEMBER

REAC Co-chair Renni Bispham announced this would be his last meeting.

EQUITY AND INCLUSION MANAGER REPORT

a. Open REAC positions

With Renni's departure, REAC has three open positions. Applications are due April 25.

Discussion was held around prior proposal to loosen the requirement that committee members must be COBI residents, and to accept applications from interested persons who live

outside the city. This would require a code change, which requires a public hearing and council approval.

Mayor Mathews will put the matter to the Council at its April 22 meeting.

Eric will be the REAC member for to participate in REAC candidate interviews, to be held in early May.

b. Planning Commission interviews

Olivia will be the REAC member to participate in interviewing Planning Commission candidates.

c. Juneteenth

This year's event will be at BPA. The date is to be determined but space is reserved for June 13, 15 or 19. Anshu and Mayor Mathews have met with BPA. One or two visioning meetings are being planned to invite community input. First one is April 28. Caitlin will participate.

d. Farmer's Market Tabling

REAC plans to table April 19. Discussed tabling at one other date by end of July.

e. Other events

REAC has been invited to participate in the BARN Bazaar May 3

COBI Volunteer Appreciation Event is May 7

REGULAR BUSINESS

a. Bystander Training

Caitlin reported that 30 people attended the Bystander 1.0 training. Planning for the 2.0 session, scheduled for April 26, is underway. Need help with outreach and sign-ups.

b. Workplan approval

Olivia reported that the plan was presented to and approved by Council. Several members expressed enthusiasm for implementing the equity tool kit.

c. Task Force Reports

i. Comp Plan

Olivia reported that an "affordable housing overlay zone" is being considered. Council Member Quitslund reported on an upzoning proposal.

Discussion was held around applying the race equity tool kit to the overlay zoning proposal. One concern with overlay zoning is that historically it was used as a tool for redlining or entrenching strata of wealth. Anshu to discuss implementation with the City Manager.

ii. Guiding Principles

Caitlin reported out the memo previously discussed by REAC recommending practices the City should consider in preparing and updating the "guiding principles" for the Comp Plan and general City use. Anshu to report the recommendation to the City Manager.

iii. Zero Emissions

Lynn reported that the joint proposal with Climate Change Action Committee was sent to a City Council study session.

iv. Affordable Housing

Lynn reported that REAC's letter to the City Council was presented, asking for REAC to be involved in the 625 Winslow project (including around shaping community spaces, commercial space, art, and naming). On April 1 Mayor Mathews, Olivia, Lynn and others toured two properties in Seattle that might be models.

Discussion was held around next steps and further engaging Council.

d. City Council Meeting Report

Eric to update the Council Watch schedule.

e. Other Items

Brief report on last month's training with Scott Winn.

Anshu reported the race equity toolkit is seeping into the City's culture, and that City departments have identified 6 or 7 pilot projects to use with the kit.

Adjourn — 4:30 PM