

COBI Race Equity Advisory Committee Minutes—May 12, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Members present: Jing Fong (via Zoom); Olivia Hall, Eric Stahl (via Zoom).

Excused: Lynn Beck, Caitlin Lombardi

Liaisons: Ashley Mathews, Jon Quitslund

Also present: E&I Manager Anshu Wahi

MOTIONS

Motion to accept agenda as presented. Approved 3-0.

Motions to accept April 14 and March 6, 2025, minutes. Approved 3-0.

REPORT OUT

No specific report-outs

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

EQUITY AND INCLUSION MANAGER REPORT

a. Juneteenth

Anshu and Mayor Mathews reported on the Juneteenth planning meetings, which resulted in good community feedback. The Bainbridge event will be the evening of June 13 at BPA, and will be presented as a two-day experience that includes the larger event at Evergreen Rotary Park in Bremerton. The event will recount Bainbridge Island's history of resistance to oppression. It will include sign-making to take to Bremerton, along with food and music.

b. Farmer's Market Tabling

REAC plans to table August 16 and September 20.

REGULAR BUSINESS

a. Bystander Training

The Bystander 2.0 training has been postponed due to turnout. The trainer, Healing Equity United, wants to reschedule and is open to ideas to revise the programming (including opening it up to participants who did not take part in the 1.0 training, or a more customized program). We are tentatively holding November 1 for the rescheduled event. Anshu and Jing will work with HEU on planning.

b. Task Force Reports

i. Comp Plan

Olivia and Council Member Quitslund reported that the affordable housing overlay zone, Winslow subarea process, and code changes for 625 Winslow are still under discussion.

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

Anshu reported that she discussed REAC's recommendations for updating the "guiding principles" for the Comp Plan and general City use. The City Manager shared the memo with individual Council members and suggested REAC form a working group to prepare a draft of new Guiding Principles that implement these recommendations and apply an equity lens to them. Discussion was held around the timing of the draft relative to the draft Comprehensive plan. The existing task force (Jing, Eric, Caitlin) will reconvene and draft.

iii. Zero Emissions

Jing reported that after a City Council study session the City has narrowed the zero emissions proposal to focus on leaf blowers. Staff will present a draft proposal to the Council on May 27.

iv. Affordable Housing

Olivia reported that the City Council is moving forward with a contractor (LIHI) for the 625 Winslow project. REAC may want to be involved in the discussion of what non-residential uses should be sought for the ground floor (e.g. childcare, nonprofit uses). LIHI has offered to hold public participation community sessions on the project.

c. City Council Meeting Report

Olivia reported the council discussed and appears to be supportive of the 625 Winslow/LIHI proposal.

Mayor Mathews reported that council members have discussed REAC's request that it reconsider the residential requirement for REAC and possibly other advisory committees, but has not yet added the matter to its agenda. Discussion was held around the report-out process for REAC recommendations.

d. Other Items/Good of the order

Anshu reported on City Council proclamations regarding Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

and Girls Month. She also reported on an upcoming workshop in Bremerton on undoing institutional racism.

Adjourn — 4:29 PM