

EAC Review Subcommittee

Notes from August 6, 2018

Attendees: David Ketrosor, Tie Oei, Shirley Cain, Nelima Sitati Munene, Lesley Kandaras, C Terrence Anderson and Yolanda Burckhardt

Themes identified from the EAC Review Interviews across all stakeholder groups:

- *Need to clarify the role and purpose of the EAC*
 - EAC complements other Council community engagement efforts
 - Should EAC members represent and speak on behalf of their communities, or were EAC members chosen to apply their expertise/lens to the work that comes to the committee?
 - Disconnect:
 - Current and former committee members were told they would shift the Met Council towards equity; however, the Council has not clearly demonstrated it's open to shifting its culture and work
 - EAC is here to make the Council uncomfortable, only then, do committee members know they are advancing their mission
 - "The Council chose activists but then want the EAC to be good little soldiers"
- *Lack of communication between stakeholders (EAC, CMs, Staff, Community Stakeholders)*
 - Council members [not on the committee] do not hear enough about the EAC
 - EAC should put recommendations in writing
 - Expectation that EAC council members report back to full Council
 - The EAC needs more transparency from the Council, e.g. clear information and guidelines
- *No consensus on what equity means or looks like*
 - The Council must address institutional racism before can get to advancing equity
 - There is currently no uniform principle on equity
 - This lack of consensus is a barrier to advancing equity work
 - Community engagement should help define what equity means and looks like
- *EAC needs information about the statutory requirements and jurisdiction of the Council*
 - This should not be burdensome, but delivered in a digestible, informative way that will aid the EAC in determining how the Council can leverage its authority
 - "Don't ask me if what you want to do is illegal, tell me what you want to do, and I'll figure out how to do it"
 - How can the EAC work with the Council to find creative solutions?
- *Lack of trust between Council staff and EAC members*
 - Some EAC members distrust staff and think they are setting the EAC's agenda

- *Strengthen community engagement*
 - How does the EAC connect with communities that need to be at the table?
 - Increase EAC visibility in community
 - Provide materials: business cards, brochures, blog, FB page

- *Develop partnerships with community*
 - Perhaps EAC meetings should take place out in community
 - Work with council members and staff to plan
 - Focus on 1-2 partnerships

- *Need for a discretionary budget*
 - EAC could complete projects and/or outreach initiatives
 - Ensure the EAC is not an invisible/shadow committee

- *Revisit committee processes*
 - Does the EAC have enough time to accomplish its work?
 - EAC should establish a decision-making process for recommendations
 - Establishing how does the EAC's work reaches the full Council
 - Creating a process for written recommendations