

Minutes of the

MEETING OF THE EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 16, 2020

Committee Members Present: Nelima Sitati Munene, Phillip Sterner, Leah Goldstein Moses, Tie Oei, Francisco Gonzalez, Sarah Rudolf, Anita Urvina Davis, Nicholas Jenkins, Desralynn Cole, Michael Luseni, Andres Boland

Committee Members Excused: Chai Lee, Tommy Sar

Committee Members Absent: Miah Ulysses, Sonya Lewis, Lanise Block, Edward McDonald, Richard Paul, Juliana Miller

CALL TO ORDER

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Equity Advisory Committee Meeting was held virtually, via Webex. Committee Co-chair Gonzalez called the planning meeting of the Council's Equity Advisory Committee to order at 6:33 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Co-Chair Gonzalez motioned for approval of the agenda. The agenda was moved by Oei and seconded by Andres. Agenda was unanimously approved.

Co-chair Gonzalez motioned for approval of the meeting minutes from May 19, 2020. Minutes were moved by Jenkins and seconded by Goldstein Moses. Minutes were unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS OPEN

Committee Co-chair Gonzalez opened the floor up for comments from the public; however, there were none.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL CHAIR: CHARLES ZELLE

The EAC welcomed Chair Charles Zelle to the meeting to discuss Council Equity initiative in response to the murder of George Floyd.

Chair Zelle spoke to the committee about the importance of equity in the region and the EAC during the COVID-19 crisis and in light of the George Floyd murder and racial protests.

- Chair Zelle discussed addressing disparities in the region and harnessing the energy of outrage and anger towards something that will matter in the long run. The Council must create trust internally and externally and build relationship or it won't get very far.
 - Rethinking of our process at the Council and our governance at the staff side and what engagement really means.
 - Ideas of how we approach our key areas: equity, housing, sustainability, transportation, climate so they are more equitable.
 - Change will take persistence.
- Chair Zelle opened the committee opened the time up for a discussion:
 - Boland asked a question about Metro Transit policing, racial bias and homeless populations
 - Chair Zelle answered that the homeless population using transit that way isn't the best use of those services. The problem is social service, health, additional and mental health issue and police often aren't equipped for those situations. The Council is doing a review of every MTPD regards racial profiling.
 - Sheikh called for the Council to increase Section 8 vouchers and other actions in light of the COVID-19 crisis as assistance with homelessness.

- Chair Zelle responded about the actions the Council has taken since the pandemic started with cities and agencies around the region regarding vulnerable populations.
- Sitati-Munene thanked Chair Zelle for coming to the EAC, and asked several questions about moving forward as a region in light of both the COVID-19 crisis and the George Floyd murder.
- Chair Zelle responded that it's time for a power shift and to create a different world for us all and willingness for a pivot, and if he can be a helper and facilitator and he looks forward to be a collaborator with the EAC.

2021-2023 SMALL BUSINESS TRIENNIAL GOALS PRESENTATION

Ashanti Payne, Assistant Director, OEO / Elaine Ogilvie, SBU Supervisor, OEO

- Payne and Ogilvie presented the 2020 Small Business Triennial Goals
 - Acknowledged that the Council isn't where it wants to be using DBE vendors
 - Goal Establishes target and benchmark in federally funded procurement activities and satisfies regulatory compliance o continue federal funds through FTA.
 - Proposed goal 2021-2023 is 13% for FTA contracts
 - Proposed goal for 2021-2023 is 11% for EPA contracts
- Goldstein Moses asked about whether analysis of number of firms was completed internally or externally
 - Ogilvie answered that calculation of DBE firms is strictly based off of the number of DBE firms that are in the DBE Directory, based on NAISC codes and it was completed internally.
- Urvina Davis asked if during COVID-19 how is the department communicating with DBE firms?
 - Payne answered: one of the things that has been happening is one-on-ones with advocacy agencies, sending out notices on the government and department websites and are holding public forums virtually.

REVISIT EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

- Committee discussed updates to EAC workplan that came out of the Standing Committee.
- Co-Chair Sitati-Munene commented on the following
 - Subcommittees and how to move the work forward I the four specific work areas?
 - Boland asked what the four workplan pillars are:
 - Sitati- Munene: affordable housing, accessibility, transportation and Council operations
 - The committee discussed how to get assigned to a specific subcommittee.
- Urvina Davis asked about a roster of current list of sub-committee members. The committee discussed whether there was still interest in meeting in subcommittees
- If members have strong ideas on structure of committee, let co-chairs know.
 - Additional time commitment for subcommittees
 - Unique committee in that the EAC focuses on equity and there isn't a shortage of work and that is why the idea of subcommittees keeps coming up – to move work forward and accomplish goals.
 - Goldstein Moses mentioned that she could attend an extra subcommittee meeting a month.
 - Luseni added that he could attend one or two extra subcommittee meetings a month.
 - Jenkins agreed that he could attend one or two extra meetings a month.
 - Boland agreed that he could attend an extra meeting a month (operations or accessibility)
- Goldstein Moses proposed designing a survey ahead of the next Standing Committee meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Co-Chair Gonzalez read announcements before adjourning meeting:

- The Standing Committee will now be meeting virtually via Webex. Our next meeting is Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 5:30 pm. Note, that participation in the Standing Committee is critical.

- Please fill out the post-meeting survey. It only takes a few minutes complete, and your feedback is really useful. Yolanda will send the survey link.

ADJOURNMENT

Co-chair Gonzalez motioned for adjournment. Boland moved, Urvina Davis seconded. Motioned carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Erena Anderson
Recording Secretary