

Minutes

Equity Advisory Committee



Meeting date: December 19, 2023

Time: 6:03 PM

Location: 390 Robert Street

Members present:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Co-Chair, John Pacheco Jr., District 5<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Co-Chair, Vanessa Jenkins, District G<input type="checkbox"/> Yassin Ossman, District 7<input type="checkbox"/> Chai Lee, District 13<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toni Carter, District 14<input type="checkbox"/> Michael Luseni, District A<input type="checkbox"/> Open, District B | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Open, District C<input type="checkbox"/> Anita L. Urvina Davis, District D<input type="checkbox"/> Open, District E<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edward McDonald, District F<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vanessa Jenkins, District G<input type="checkbox"/> Leah Goldstein Moses, District H<input type="checkbox"/> Zabat Awed, at large | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Open, at large<input type="checkbox"/> Open, at large<input type="checkbox"/> Open, at large<input type="checkbox"/> Open, at large<input type="checkbox"/> Stephanie Shider, at large<input type="checkbox"/> Open, at large<input type="checkbox"/> E Kristen Stacey, at large<input type="checkbox"/> = present, E = excused |
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Call to order

A quorum being present, Co-Chair Jenkins called the regular meeting of the Equity Advisory Committee to order at 6:00 p.m.

Agenda approved.

The agenda was not approved due to low Quorum. Council Member _____ second by _____.

Approval of minutes

The minutes were not approved due to the low Quorum and was place aside for the November Equity Advisory Committee Meeting. No Motion carried. No Quorum at beginning of meeting.

Public invitation

No request from public.

Reports – Subcommittees

No reports

Information

Small Group Discussion “Guiding into 2024”

Introduction of presentation by Torri Hampton, OEEO, Metropolitan Council

Presentation Overview

- Discussion Questions about the Wrap Up of 2023 and guiding into 2024

Committee Questions/Comments

Hampton – How has your understanding of equity evolved through the year?

McDonald - I have observed that our quest for equity, or equity, I should say, is not a final destination; it is an ongoing journey that we're all on together. I understand it better, I think, with the process of writing a definition for it. It brought a lot of clarity to it and helped focus my thoughts with the reports and things like that we were receiving. So, I would always refer back to our general kind of definition of equity and then study those things. I agree with Toni that it is a journey, but it is one that's more focused now than it was the first time I was in..

Chair Pacheco – I would tell you that my perspective has changed throughout the year, especially as I've taken on the responsibility of co-chair. And trying to understand where equity fits across the system is difficult. I mean, if I think, my history has more been focused on one aspect of equity for an organization. I think what we are still missing is the advisory members and some input where we talk to others, outside of our echo chamber. The difficulty is that we meet once a month, and if you miss one, you are way behind. We need to have a better system or restructure altogether.

McDonald – Now, one thing that I am confused about is that internally, there are equity things. But how does that all connect, you know, across what we're doing and what they're doing, and how does it all connect is something I think going forward we may need to seriously look at. It comes through with what you're saying with having less members here and then inviting some more internal people to be a part of this group.

Carter – I would say there is great support for engaging with council members and committee members, community members around our equity agenda. It seems to me, though, that there is not necessarily a recognition of the work of the equity committee, you know, as topics come forward. I want a conversation between the council and the equity advisory committee. For example, the council bringing their issues and problems to us and us developing a work plan to address those issues. I think if we know what questions we are asking or being asked, you know, then we can figure out how through the year here to respond to those questions, to provide help, to provide, you know, the reactions that the things that are brought to us. For quorum, we need an active process of work.

I think we need some help from staff and from the council to determine how to build a plan this year that ends up with something going back that that we really want to see happen the council really wants to see happen the staff can really appreciate as well. So that when we come to meetings we know what we're doing we know why we know what it's going to result in developing equity.

Chair Pacheco – I think we need to do a better job of having other departments understand our role and what to expect from us. If we also understand what to expect from others, it will guide our strategy.

Hampton – How can we better involve and engage the community in our equity efforts?

McDonald - I think moving these meetings out in different Geographic locations wouldn't be a



bad idea you know- visit some neighborhood, set it up, market it. People can come out you know still have our agenda and conduct our business right but be very intentional about letting people know that they can come and present. If we're going to have 12 meetings, maybe we say we're going to have four out in the community in you know St Paul, Minneapolis, and Suburban communities and then invite people into just speak to the group.

Carter – The Metropolitan Council needs to do community engagement around regional development C. I think that it would be a good idea to collaborate with them as the equity committee to do a presentation or series of presentations as part of the regional development guide.

Co Chair Jenkins– I really, I really like that idea of just getting out in the community. I know I've had people say, "What is the Met Council? What do they do? What do you mean, you know?" So, to be at a school, a Rec Center, a church, a synagogue, a mosque, yeah, and have meetings there and let people know that it's just not some Ivory Tower making decisions and, you know, deal with it; that's right. But no, your opinion and your ideas are welcome and warranted. So, I think that's really good, and, you know, like you said, three, four out of the twelve.

McDonald - I think people would respond and come as long as we're willing to let them be part of the community and come as they are, in the form that they are, and speak the way they speak, you know. Maybe it's in neighborhoods, his neighborhood along with the council members who represent that neighborhood and committee members who, perfect, we love.

Hampton – Who do you think is missing from the table?

Co Chair Jenkins - Definitely young people, young people just thinking about the young leaders. Regional When those young people came and they were just so engaged, and they were like, "Wow, okay," you know because they're going to be the ones living in that future, you know. So, for them to have that voice and to be a part of it, you know, we've got to figure out a way to get them to the table.

McDonald - Huh, yeah, not after school, but yeah, I agree with you. I think that's a good group, elderly, yes, and disabled, and we do need to make sure that we have good race and ethnic representation, you know, and I think we've done a pretty good job of that.

Hampton – Are there any recommendations or actions you would like to propose based on what we have learned about equity this year?

McDonald – I would love to look at that work plan we put together and see if we can list some accomplishments, whatever that might be.

Carter – I would like to, either as an on-going basis or as a one time basis, ask for specific recommendations or questions from the council to establish what would be most impactful as a project or theme for the next year. Is there something that can help us scrutinize strategies so that we can propel through the year. I'd like to change our position from observation to partnership.

EAC Recruitment

Introduction of presentation by Torri Hampton, Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity, Metropolitan Council

Presentation Overview



- 5 at large and 3 precinct positions will be open for the EAC
- January 31st is the deadline date for applications
- Overview of 2023 presentations and accomplishments, and projects going forwards into 2024

Committee Questions/Comments

McDonald – There are some people that are on the committee that have missed many meetings, and they still have three years left of their term. What are we going to do about them?

Hampton – We sent out cancellation letters, so only one person said that they still wanted to be included even though they missed many meetings. We are giving that person until next year to see how that pans out.

McDonald – During the pandemic, we were the only committee that was still meeting in person. I think videoconferencing should have been an option. Is that an option for us going forward?

Hampton – It is not an option just yet, but we are examining it as an option within our new bylaws.

Reports – Subcommittees

1. Council Member John Pacheco Jr.: Management, Transportation
2. Council Member Chai Lee: Community Development, Management
3. Council Member Toni Lee: Community Development, Transportation
4. Council Member Yassin Osman: Environment and Management Committee

Announcement

No Announcements

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Equity Advisory Committee meeting of December 2023. Approved this **19 of January 16, 2023**.

Council contact:

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