Minutes of the

MEETING OF THE EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, January 21, 2020

Committee Members Present: Nelima Sitati Munene, Juliana Miller, Leah Goldstein Moses, Tie Oei, Anita Urvina Davis, Francisco Gonzalez, Sarah Rudolf

Committee Members Excused: Tommy Sar, Chai Lee

Committee Members Absent: Abdirahman Muse, Sonya Lewis, Leslie Redmond, Miah Ulysse, Lanise Block, Metric Giles, Shirley Cain, Mohamed Sheikh, Leslie Redmond, Aarica Coleman, Kris Fredson,

CALL TO ORDER
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
The agenda was not moved by Co-chair Gonzalez as there was not a quorum present at this meeting.

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

2020 STRATEGIC AND WORK PLAN DEVELOPMENT
Co-chair Gonzalez introduced Facilitator Sandra Richardson who is working with the committee on 2020 workplans.

The Committee members looked at the 2019 Workplan:

Facilitator Richardson called on the committee to look at their accomplishments and roadblocks from 2019 while focusing on opportunities for their 2020 Workplan.

Accomplishments:

• Urvina Davis recognized the EAC power and influence the group realized in 2019 as an accomplishment.
• Goldstein Moses talked about EAC input with Community groups, on Council actions and input on the Parks Equity Plan, HRA Vouchers Recommendation as key Committee achievement.
• Co-chair Sitati Munene further mentioned discussions and collaborations with Social Services regarding Green Line hours as additional accomplishments.
• The Committee discussed moving into collaboration with staff in 2020 to offer expertise, offer more accountability so there is more real access regarding equity and regional equity.
  o Facilitator Richardson asked the committee to think about: “Where to focus? What is your priority? Choose one, or else you won’t choose anything. Those priorities will intersect with the priorities of the Council.”
• Facilitator Richardson led discussion regarding drilling down on the committee priorities; i.e. what part of Housing does the Committee want to focus on?
  o Affordable Housing?
    ▪ Any new projects?
    ▪ Creating and developing staff relationships
• Co-chair Sitati Munene brought up a possible definition: Ensure the Council is using their full statutory authority and investment towards affordable housing mandates, agreements and measurable outcomes in the greater seven county region.
• Co-chair Sitati Munene talked about EAC Goals:
Co-chair Sitati Munene mentioned: The EAC represents the Community. Where it sources its information might be different than the Council. Think in a different kind of way to get the work done.

Goldstein Moses asked: What are the carrots and sticks offered by the Council in regional planning and how can the EAC use their influence with the Council to advance Equity Policy?

Co-chair Gonzalez talked about how the EAC can even be more aspirational than the Council can use.

Urvina Davis talked about: The Metropolitan Council’s formal power, but also the informal power that the Council can use.

Facilitator Richardson asked the group to think about: What is our mandate, what is our power, what is the voice of the community that we are bringing to the EAC and the Council? Would like to see that articulated more in 2020.

Co-chair Gonzalez brought up: That there is process is happening internally, but don’t be limited by Council or EAC goals. Think outside the box and the Council and bring as much creativity as possible.
  - The difficult we do immediately. The impossible take a little longer.
  - More influence with staff as they are working on equity plans versus Council – for staff review?
  - Good opportunity. Council needs to move the Equity framework forward.
  - What is the path? The EAC is the decisionmaker?
    - Additionally, Co-chair Gonzalez explained to the Committee how staff generally interact with the Council Members regarding the comprehensive planning process. There are several checkpoints along the way regarding meeting goals and checkpoints.

Facilitator Richardson pointed out to the group: Up until now, this has only moved us halfway. Moving forward now?
  - Inform Council that working on process and inform staff to work on
  - EAC subcommittees meet again?
    - The members that are showing up are the members to work with.
    - EAC is in transition
    - Long range 2040 planning is happening this year – new opportunity for planning.

Rudolf: Transportation is still outstanding for 2020 workplan, it’s in process.
  - It is realistic to convene outside of committee structure? Email?

Miller: Meeting shouldn’t be open-ended. There needs to be parameters, boundaries, deadlines.
  - Miller – I would vote for Goal 3, Objective A: Council Goals
  - Miller – We should focus on: Goals, Objectives, Metrics, Strategy, Success

Miller: Comprehensive workplan to identify intersections, be holistic

Goldstein Moses mentioned: I have a Workplan Template I can share with the group.

Facilitator Richardson: Presentation date to Council is March 11 – work back from there. March 4th is due date for final drafts.

Co-chair Sitati Munene asked the group: Should we look at strategy and how we do our work as a committee?

Co-chair Sitati Munene and Kennedy: At next meeting working definition of Equity to present to the Council to advance racial equity.
  - The Council has drafts of Equity definitions from other entities. The EAC doesn’t have to start from scratch.

Co-chair Gonzalez: Updated Equity group send back three draft Equity definitions by 2/11/2020
  - Equity Group:
    - Miah Ulysse, Francisco Gonzalez, Juliana Miller and Sarah Rudolf

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I have several announcements for you before we adjourn:
• Co-chairs Sitati Munene and Gonzalez are scheduled to present the Equity Advisory Committee’s 2020 Work Plan and 2019 Report-Out during the Metropolitan Council Meeting on Wednesday, March 11, 2020, starting at 4:00 pm.

• The Standing Committee next week is cancelled.

• 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**
The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Erena Anderson
Recording Secretary