

Minutes of the

MEETING OF THE EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 18, 2020

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 meeting of the Council's Equity Advisory Committee to order at 6:06 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Committee Members Present: Nelima Sitati Munene, Leah Goldstein Moses, Tie Oei, Anita Urvina Davis, Nicholas Jenkins, Michael Luseni, Andres Boland, Chai Lee, Edward McDonald, Juliana Miller, Phillip Sterner, Francisco Gonzalez

Committee Members Excused: Sarah Rudolf

Committee Members Absent: Miah Ulysses, Sonya Lewis, Lanise Block, Desralynn Cole, Richard Paul

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

Co-chair Gonzalez motioned for approval of the meeting minutes from July 21, 2020. Minutes were moved by Urvina Davis and seconded by Lee. Minutes were unanimously approved.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, LCA STAFF INTRODUCTION

- Tara Beard, Manager of Livable Communities showed an introductory presentation to the Committee on the LCA and Regional Housing policies.
 - Oei asked about re-enrollment and what has worked well and what hasn't; and the goals for the EAC and LCA partnership going forward
 - Beard responded that there are 97 participating cities and spoke generally about the participation and goals of the program. A program needs broad regional input and is done the same across all communities regarding affordable housing goals. Getting to a place of agreement on how to calculate housing goals for every ten years enrollment vis the biggest source of discussion with communities.
 - Beard added that the purpose of the presentation for future EAC partnerships serves as an introduction to the LCA staff and an overview of the services of the LC department.
 - Sheikh asked a question relating to housing grants: is there an example of a CD award and what outcomes there were from that/those grant(s)?
 - Beard responded that the typical grant LCDA awards are around 12-17 million dollars yearly, with different funding sources, depending upon the statute and what can be changed. Beard further listed some examples: The Commons at Penn and Project 66 West.

METRO TRANSIT DISCUSSION

- Wes Kooistra, General Manager of Metro Transit asked the Committee that, for the sake of time, his presentation and discussion be moved to another committee meeting.

METRO TRANSIT POLICE DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION

- Police Chief Eddie Frizell presented efforts that the MTPD has taken in the last few years to address diversity, harassment and inclusion efforts in light of the murder of George Floyd and the anti-racism movement.
 - Boland asked, with the pandemic and light rail growth, is the police department expanding fast enough to cope with the growing needs?
 - Chief Frizell responded that they just hired 15 new officers and that the GM has given him much autonomy for running the PD. MTPD serves a massive footprint the region, almost 900 square miles, and the department is using technology to try and ease the impact of growth.
 - Urvina Davis asked to share Chief Frizell’s presentation more widely with groups she works with.
 - McDonald asked the Chief what is MTPD doing to foster cultural awareness among the officers and community?
 - Chief Frizell responded that they go back to diversity and walking the beats among the communities, so officers become culturally sensitive and interact with the communities they serve.
 - McDonald asked a follow-up question: does this go across all communities? Measuring cultural competence before officers come into the force on the front side?
 - Chief Frizell responded that every one group has a cultural organization/ association and they all interact.
 - Secondly, Chief Frizell has been working closely with the former Ramsey Country Sheriff, Dr. Bostrom and Dr. Booker Hodges and Commissioner Harrington on character-based hiring.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Co-Chair Gonzalez read announcements before adjourning meeting:

- The Standing Committee will continue meeting virtually via Webex. Our next meeting is Tuesday, August 25, 2020 at 5:30 pm. Note, that participation in the Standing Committee is critical.

ADJOURNMENT

Co-chair Gonzalez called for meeting adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Erena Anderson
Recording Secretary