

Minutes of the Equity Advisory Committee

MEETING OF THE EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 16, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Equity Advisory Committee Meeting was held virtually, via Webex and livestreamed via the Metropolitan Council website. Committee Co-chair Sitati-Munene called the meeting of the Council's Equity Advisory Committee to order at 6:08 p.m.

ROLL CALL (verbal)

Committee Members Present: Nelima Sitati Munene, Leah Goldstein Moses, Anita Urvina Davis, Michael Luseni, Edward McDonald, Tie Oei, Nicholas Jenkins, Sarah Rudolf, Juliana Miller, Francisco Gonzalez, Mohamed Sheikh,

Committee Members Excused: Chai Lee, Desralynn Cole

Committee Members Absent: Richard Paul, Phillip Sterner, Andres Boland, Lanise Block

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES (verbal)

- Co-Chair Gonzalez motioned for approval of Amendment to the January agenda. Amendment moved by McDonald, seconded by Oei. Agenda amendment was unanimously carried via verbal roll call.
- Co-chair Gonzalez motioned for approval of the meeting minutes from December 15, 2020. Minutes were moved by Sheikh and seconded by Urvina-Davis. Minutes were unanimously carried via verbal roll call.

PUBLIC INVITATION

- Co-chair Gonzalez called for any members of the public to come forward; however, there were no community members present.

2021 STRATEGIC AND WORKPLAN DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

- Co-chair Gonzalez went over the status of the EAC 2021 workplan, recent edits and progress the committee had made so far.
- Committee discussed workplan terminology for clarity based on DOL versus Council definitions and initiatives.
 - McDonald spoke to DOL versus Council equity and workforce definitions.
 - Payne elaborated on how the Council defines certain workforce terms.
 - Sheikh suggested including definitions of certain terms to eliminate confusion. Co-chair Sitati-Munene agreed.
 - Jordan highlighted the new additions to the Workplan.
 - Goldstein-Moses suggested that she could research common equity terminology and bring it back to the committee.
 - Sheikh mentioned the need to differentiate groups when discussing business investments. A standard definition with an equity lens is very difficult to be inclusive.
 - McDonald responded that it's important to use correct terminology so the Council stays compliant.
 - Co-chair Gonzalez responded that definitions should be on underserved populations, versus a specific list of all the different groups.
 - Committee further discussed the operations priority portion of the 2021 Workplan details.

- Co-chair Gonzalez motioned for approval of 2021 EAC Workplan. Workplan was moved by McDonald and seconded by Lee. Workplan was unanimously carried via verbal roll call.

THE EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORKFLOW REVIEW

- Co-chair Gonzalez recapped the 2021 EAC Workflow diagram produced by Goldstein-Moses for information flow between the committee/ staff/ Council.
- Co-chair Sitati-Munene recommended cleaning up and finalizing the document.

OEO LIAISON UPDATE

- Cyrenthia Jordan, Director of Office of Equal Opportunity briefly updated the committee on the role of the OEO department and the various business units within the OEO.
- Standing committee agendas and workplans will be rolling out as they are finalized.
 - Multiple divisions and departments are in the process of finalizing their workplans.
- OEO is involved in the 2050 Planning process.
 - Payne added the 2050 project team is drafting their engagement process and are looking for input, starting with the Committee of the Whole.
 - Co-chair Sitati-Munene asked what the timeline is for the process.
 - Payne responded, still in the early stages and development. It's just getting started.
 - Michelle Fure of the Communications Department added that the process just started, and it will be a long process.
 - Committee further discussed meaningful engagement opportunities for the 2050 plan, following outcomes from the 2040 Thrive plan.
- Citizen League is reviewing the Metro Transit Police Department. Urvina Davis is serving on that committee for the EAC.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Co-Chair Gonzalez and co-chair Sitati-Munene called for committee announcements before adjourning the meeting:

- Sheikh recapped efforts through Hennepin County relating to people experiencing homelessness in conjunction with Metro HRA.
- The Standing Committee will continue meeting virtually via Webex. The next meeting is Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 5:30 pm. Note, that participation in the Standing Committee is critical.

ADJOURNMENT

- Co-chair Gonzalez called for meeting adjournment.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Erena Anderson
Recording Secretary