

**RACE EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 1, 2022
MINUTES**

ROLL CALL

Present

REAC members: Peggi Erickson, Jing Fong, Frank Jacobson, Savanna Rovelstad, Clarissa San Diego, Eric Stahl

Liaison: Brenda Fantroy-Johnson

Excused

REAC members: Renni Bispham, Olivia Hall

Liaison: Clarence Moriwaki

MOTIONS

MOTION: I move to approve the November 3, 2022 minutes.

Jing/Frank: The motion was approved unanimously 4-0.

MOTION: I move to approve the November 17, 2022 minutes.

Jing/Frank: The motion was approved unanimously 4-0.

MOTION: I move to approve the December 1, 2022 agenda.

Clarissa/Peggi: The motion was approved unanimously 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cindy Anderson: At the last study session, the city manager talked about increasing communication between the public and the city council. I encourage us to document what public comments are made during REAC meetings. This encourages the public to make public comments with your committee.

MINUTES

Affordable Housing Website (Holly Brewer)

Holly Brewer introduced her website PlanFrogRock.com which focuses on affordable housing—who needs it, what it is, and what it looks like. She would like it to be a community resource and open forum for this important topic. After the holiday, there will be more content.

Winslow Sub-Area Plan

Ellen informed REAC that the project team had a kick-off planning meeting. Olivia and Renni will represent REAC as points of contact. Law & Policy will offer support where needed.

COBI Race Equity Officer

Law & Policy and Renni made notes and comments on the race equity officer job draft. The subcommittee also examined other cities' race equity officer responsibilities and job postings.

Discussion included suggestions that the post could be shortened (too many details make it vague) to cast the widest possible net for candidates, to include language from the REAC ordinance about fighting systemic or institutionalized racism, and that this position not only requires technical skills but also people skills and lived/community experience.

The GARE discussion group has lots of viewers and would be a good place to post this position.

Police-Court Facility Naming Process

Ellen sent a draft for an overall city naming policy. It is not in conflict with the police-court facility naming process. Both of these naming processes are moving forward at the beginning of 2023. When the police-court naming process draft is final from the Law and Policy Committee, she'd like full REAC to review it and make a formal recommendation to the city council and staff for their review and consideration.

Police-Court Facility Call for Artists

REAC provided comments on Ellen's draft Call for Artists and timeline. The next step will be to discuss the Call and how responses will be reviewed, including criteria. Clarissa suggested that the project team be open to augmented reality exhibits (BIMA currently has one!) that can accommodate multiple artists within the same space.

BI Reads for Justice

BI Reads for Justice held its first activity "Why Talk About Race on Bainbridge Island" on Nov. 9 at Eagle Harbor Books. Over 100 people came, one of the largest crowds ever in the bookstore! The discussion, hosted by Brandi Bispham and Chasity Malatesta, featured five islanders with a wide range of experiences related to race. The next activity, "Let's Practice Talking About Race," features the Living Room Conversation model. It will take place on Dec. 5th at the library. Registration is required.

MLK Day and Black History Month Events

MLK Day: REAC is a partner with community groups that will host a full weekend of MLK Day activities, including a soirée (Friday), a social justice mixer (Saturday), and a march (Sunday). Black History Month: REAC and BI Reads for Justice will host a screening and discussion of the documentary *Beyond Black and White* (feat. Seattle's Roosevelt High School) Students are encouraged to attend. Date and location TBD but will be sometime Feb. 10-12.

Renni and Savanna received an email from a teacher at Hyla's upper school. He is taking a group of students on a week-long civil rights trip to the South (Montgomery, Selma, Tuskegee, and Atlanta). A big part of the trip is to "bring it back home." We can put the students on a future agenda to share what they learned. This opened up discussion on the possibility of REAC accepting applications from students. If yes, what are measures to keep students safe?

Finance and GARE Training.

Ellen shared REAC's expenditures for 2022 to assist us in creating our 2023 work plan and budget request. Part of that budget is GARE training (registration, travel, food, accommodation). The location for 2023 training is TBD. Next step is for the finance committee to estimate (round figure) this annual training budget figure and account for additional items the committee requires. These would be incorporated into the 2023 Work Plan.

Brenda and Peggi attended the Race Forward conference in Phoenix. So many provocative questions: Are you sure you really want to heal? Who are you accountable to? Who are your people?

Listening Sessions.

We hope to finish listening sessions with BIPOC community leaders by the end of December. This is important to our collaborative relationships with community.

City Council Report

- BIJAC and others commented about preservation of the Suyematsu Farm. This issue should be on our radar.
- Deanna Martinez spoke up about the silence regarding the treatment of BIPOC women in government.
- Housing Action Plan analysis presented by Sophie Glass (Triangle Associates).
- Race equity officer (part of budget)
- Discussion initiated about the effectiveness and impact of citizen advisory committees.

REAC Vacancy

One person will be interviewed for the vacancy. Savanna and Renni requested a discussion regarding the interview process before interviews commence. Eventually, the process will need to be cleaned up.

Reflections on joint meeting with Bremerton REAC

We appreciate Darryl and Airen for their honesty. If we—Bremerton and Bainbridge— could combine our strengths, we'd be unstoppable! It is egregious that they had to file a public records request to get a description of the race equity officer position. It gutted us that Darryl feels like the city is not watering its REAC and leaving them to die. We are grateful for their commitment and their energy to end institutionalized racism and in awe of their allyship network. Bainbridge REAC is also grateful for our community partners and allies. Without them, we would not exist.

Good of the Order

BIJAC is hosting the first in-person Mochi Tsuki since the pandemic. It's on Jan. 7 at Woodward. Please consider volunteering!

 1/5/20
Co-Chair Date