

**Race Equity Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 5, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Members present: Renni Bispham, Raul Camacho, Jing Fong, Olivia Hall, Savanna Rovelstad, Eric Stahl

Liaisons present: Brenda Fantroy-Johnson, Jon Quitslund

Equity & Inclusion Manager present: Anshu Wahi

Excused: Lynn Beck, Caitlin Lombardi

MOTIONS

Motion: I move to approve the revised July 8, 2024 minutes.

Olivia/Jing: The motion was approved unanimously with one abstention.

Motion: I move to approve the September 5, 2024 agenda.

Olivia/Jing: The motion was approved unanimously with one abstention.

Motion: I move to table the Pride recap, Bystander Training, Task Force Reports, and City Council Report agenda items.

Renni/Olivia: The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment submitted.

APPRECIATION FOR DEPARTING REAC MEMBER

Savanna Rovelstad was honored and celebrated. She has been with REAC since the beginning, having first served with the Race Equity Task Force. Her voice and commitment to race equity will be greatly missed.

PRESENTATION BY SENIOR CENTER ON EXPANSION PLANS

- Bainbridge Island Senior Community Center (BISCC) executive director Reed Price presented its plans for an expanded facility. Reed has been the director since 2017. Thank you, Reed!
- The idea for a bigger senior center was conceived in 2007 when 49% of the Island was 50 years and older, and 27% of the Island was 65-plus. In 2017, BISCC took over programming from the Parks Dept. Membership has grown from 800 to over 2,000 in the past eight years. There are over 60 programs, and the building is bursting at the seams.
- Architect Charlie Wenzlau has been working with BISCC and other community organizations, such as Helpline, Island Volunteer Caregivers, and Bainbridge Youth Services, to design a facility that can deliver the programs and services needed by the community. The proposed space would triple the size of the current building, increasing from 7k to 17k square feet, excluding a 30-space garage.

- BISCC is seeking input on how the new center, located in the heart of Winslow, can be more accessible and welcoming, with features like ADA-compliant doors, accommodations for visually and hearing impairments, nongendered bathrooms.
- BISCC is located on city-owned property. Its proposed plans want to ensure the City that there is adequate space to build senior and/or affordable housing. Note that BISCC's plans do not include housing. There is room on the City lots for the existing playground, two new buildings to house BISCC, and housing.
- More community groups, such as Bainbridge Prepares and Kitsap Community Health, could be part of the community center, reinforcing that the Senior/Community Center is not just a place where old people hang out.
- Timeline:
2026—a fundraising campaign
2027—build
2028 —new building open!

PRESENTATION BY COBI PLANNING DEPARTMENT ON DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

- COBI Planning Manager HB Harper and Senior Planner Jennifer Sutton presented detailed information on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). They also offered support to REAC on structuring the conversation for the September 9th REAC event.
- The DEIS is designed to inform Council's decision-making process for updating the comprehensive plan. It's a complex document, and it's important to engage the community and get their candid input.
- Suggestion: Dedicate one hour to building shared knowledge and gathering feedback.
- Two-hour pop-up events are organized to facilitate in-depth conversations about your neighborhood and about land-use.
- The purpose of the DEIS open houses is to identify any errors or omissions in the 600-page document and gauge public's preference for one of three alternatives.
 - Alternative 1: Basically, no changes.
 - Alternative 2: Dense Centers (Go Up). Boundaries not changed.
 - Alternative 3: Distributed Density (Up and Out). Some boundaries changed.

NOTE: Alternatives 2 and 3 increase density. The alternatives look twenty years out to 2044.
- Raul said that he was glad that utilities were addressed, but did not see telecommunications mentioned. Internet access is a huge equity issue and gets amplified with growth.

PLANNING FOR SEPT. 9 DEIS EVENT HOSTED BY REAC

The committee discussed the format and logistics for the DEIS event at Bainbridge Performing Arts (BPA). Discussions included assigning roles for welcoming and describing the event, room setup, methods for collecting comments (e.g., Mentimeter), and what visuals would be presented. Consideration will be given to small group discussions to encourage engagement.

EQUITY & INCLUSION MANAGER REPORT

- REAC budget. The City has not yet approved budgets, and there have been cuts in all departments. Before Anshu was hired, REAC had its own budget, but the remaining \$12,000 will carry over and now be included in Anshu's department budget. Once that is spent, funds for REAC activities will still be available and managed by Anshu.

- Follow-up on public comment. City Attorney Jim Haney will schedule meetings with all advisory committee chairs in September and October to address questions about public comment. We can also use this time to challenge the current policy. Renni and Olivia, REAC co-chairs will attend. Eric asked to participate, as well.
- Farmer's Market. REAC is signed up to table on Sat. Sept 28. Olivia can work early shift and Eric is a maybe.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Olivia reminded the group that as individuals we can endorse candidates, but as individuals serving on REAC, we cannot endorse candidates.
- The North Kitsap Latino Festival will take place from 12-7 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 14 at North Kitsap High School. It's supported by the North Kitsap School District and serves as a community healing opportunity following past challenges and harm.
- The City Volunteer Appreciation Event at the Rowing Center was a success!
- The City is collaborating with Design Local on local art experiences. REAC folks, please fill out the survey, which will be open a few more days. Anshu will send the link.
- There will be a ceremony to celebrate the art piece "Peers" at the Ted Spearman Justice Center from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m., Friday, Sept. 27.
- Plans are underway for a reception in October to commemorate the installation of a Welcome Pole at the 305 Sound to Olympics Trail.

REPORT OUT ITEMS FOR COUNCIL

REAC is hosting a gathering on Monday, Sept. 9 at BPA, where attendees can learn about the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DESI), ask questions, and share their thoughts on what's important to them as we plan for the island's future.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Approved: 10/03/2024