

COBI Race Equity Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 3, 2024

1. Call to Order /Roll Call/Report Out Summary

Co-chair Olivia Hall called the meeting to order at 6 pm at City Hall and on the Zoom webinar

Members present: Lynn Beck, Renni Bispham (arrived 6:30 pm), Jing Fong, Olivia Hall, Caitlin Lombardi, Eric Stahl

Council Liaisons: Jon Quitslund

Excused: Raul Camacho, Liaison Brenda Fantroy-Johnson

Also present: E&I Manager Anshu Wahi

Report Out Matters

- Motion and letter regarding REAC's recommendations on Comprehensive Plan Draft EIS
- Report on CAC Chairs/Liaisons Oct 1 meeting with City attorney

2. Housekeeping

- Motion to accept September 5, 2024 minutes (Stahl). Approved 5-0.
- No modifications to the agenda were proposed. Motion to accept the agenda (Beck). Approved 5-0.
- There were no conflicts of interest disclosed

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Equity & Inclusion Manager Report

- a. *Indigenous People's Day:* The event is scheduled for October 14, 2024 at Woodward Middle School.
- b. *Racial Equity Lens update:* The City is conducting outreach and a survey in connection with a potential city utility rate increase, adopting a version of the race equity lens/outreach process used in connection with the Comprehensive Plan draft EIS.
- c. *Youth involvement:* E&I Manager Wahi is scheduled to speak to high school students over the next three Tuesdays regarding youth involvement in local government, including a potential youth liaison program early next year. Jing, Olivia and

Kate reported they are meeting with the BHS Global Health Club to encourage public comment and participation.

d. *BIPD opportunities*: E&I Manager Wahi reported on an opportunity to participate in the hiring process for new police officers through the Public Safety Training organization. Renni expressed interest in participating.

5. DEIS debrief and next steps

Olivia reported on the ongoing Comprehensive Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and on City Council discussion regarding the proposed alternative scenarios and their impact on the City's capacity to provide affordable housing and to reach state-required housing targets. Olivia asked for input on a draft letter to the City Council asking it to apply an equity lens and to commit to capacity scenarios that would realistically meet the City's affordable housing needs. REAC discussed the draft letter and its participation in the DEIS process.

Motion: I move to approve the letter expressing REAC's views on the DEIS as drafted by Olivia Hall, with the modifications discussed on the record, and to delegate to Hall and Lombardi the task of completing the draft, and for the letter to be presented to the City Council before its next meeting.

Stahl/Bispham: The motion carried unanimously 6-0.

6. CAC Chairs/Liaisons Oct 1 meeting with City attorney

Eric reported on an October 1, 2024, meeting led by the City Attorney to review with the volunteer City Advisory Committee chairs and others the legal issues surrounding public comment and transparency. E&I Manager Wahi provided a sample statement some boards use in response to harmful public comments.

7. Regular Business

a. *Possible repeat Bystander Training*: Jing recounted the bystander training REAC put on last May by Human Equity United and attended by 70 people. HEU is available for another training in January 2025. Discussion was held about the costs and content of another training. E&I Manager Wahi will review the budget and discuss costs and feasibility with Jing.

b. *Task Force Reports*:

i. *Technology*: Olivia reported on updates to REAC's page on the COBI website, which were circulated in the meeting packet. E&I Manager Wahi to review and upload after REAC approves.

Motion: To approve the website revisions as drafted.

Lombardi/Beck: The motion carried unanimously 6-0.

ii. *Zero Emissions:* Jing discussed the history of the proposed zero emissions landscape ordinance and the City Manager's request for feedback from REAC and CCAC. Discussion was held about challenges other cities have faced with similar measures, including the need for sufficient outreach to precede any implementation, and the benefit of having resources (such as tool trade-in/rebate programs) to assist with the transition to electric tools.

c. *City Council Meeting Report:* Renni reported the council issued timely proclamations for Filipino-American History Month and Hispanic/Latine Heritage Month

d. *REAC membership, participation, and responsibilities:* This matter was tabled.

8. Good of the Order

E&I Manager Wahi (i) advised the committee on using "action minutes" rather than narrative minutes, and will circulate guidelines; (ii) attended a potluck at the Poulsbo library with the Kitsap DEI coordinator and Kitsap ERACE; and (iii) reported on the upcoming Suquamish welcome pole event October 9 in Winslow.

Renni urged members to attend the Indigenous People's Day event on October 14.

9. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Approved: November 7, 2024