

**City of Bainbridge Island Race Equity Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes for November 7, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLLCALL

Co-chair Renni Bispham called the meeting to order at 6 PM at City Hall and on the Zoom Webinar

Members present: Lynn Beck (via Zoom), Renni Bispham, Raul Camacho, Jing Fong, Caitlin Lombardi

Liaisons present: None

Also present: Equity & Inclusion Manager Anshu Wahi

Excused: Councilmember Brenda Fantroy-Johnson, Olivia Hall, Councilmember Jon Quitslund, Eric Stahl

APPROVAL OF MINUTES/AGENDA/CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Approval of Minutes

Motion to accept October 3, 2024 minutes (Fong/Lombardi). Approved unanimously 5-0.

Approval of Agenda

No modifications to the agenda were proposed. Motion to accept the agenda (Camacho/Lombardi). Approved Unanimously 5-0.

No conflicts of interest were disclosed

PUBLIC COMMENT

Barbara Ruys told REAC that the Baha'i community on Bainbridge Island has been hosting a race amity event periodically since the 1960's. It takes place the second Sunday in June. Barbara is also a liaison for the Bainbridge Island-North Kitsap Interfaith Council.

THE ELECTION AND REAC

What might the election results mean for REAC's workplan?

- Potential impacts included changes in federal funding for DEI, increased anger, and heightened hate rhetoric and behaviors.
- Proactively offer more community events and resources in anticipation of hate behavior. This will impact REAC's workplan. Caitlin, Olivia, and Renni will review the work plan to see which activities need to be elevated.
- Request for advice from Chief Clark or City Manager Blair King regarding safety and security during REAC meetings. Later in the meeting, Anshu agreed to set up meeting with Chief Clark and City Manager King. Renni, Olivia, Raul, and Anshu will attend on behalf of REAC.

EQUITY & INCLUSION MANAGER REPORT

a. Racial Equity Toolkit update.

Anshu would like to move this toolkit from draft status to adoption by COBI. It has been piloted with the Utility Rates Study. Scott Winn would do two 2-3 hour trainings in early 2025. Priority for training will be COBI leadership and race equity team, City Council, and REAC.

b. Committee use of text and personal phones for communication.

A reminder: REAC members may not text their colleagues about REAC matters via personal phones. Transitory messages like "Please check your email" are allowed. Messages with content need to be sent through email.

c. December and January REAC meetings.

January 2 is early in the month—and right after the holiday—for a regularly scheduled REAC monthly meeting Anshu will look into alternative meeting dates for the first half of January

DEIS UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS

Caitlin reported that she and Olivia finalized and sent a letter—with REAC input—to city council encouraging the use of the Race Equity Toolkit in the DEIS (Draft Environmental Impact Statement) decision-making process regarding the preferred alternatives. Councilmembers Matthews and Schneider reached out about having REAC walk the full council through the draft toolkit and how it might be applied.

REGULAR BUSINESS

a. Possible repeat Bystander Training update

We had a successful Bystander Training in the spring and would like to bring back the facilitator, Healing Equity United for 1.0 (up to 70 people) and 2.0 trainings (up to 50 people, at least three weeks after 1.0 training) in 2025. REAC has the budget to offer the trainings and will get back to HEU to confirm what dates work for us

b. Task Force Reports

Zero Emissions landscaping tools .

The Climate Change Advisory Committee will have a clean copy of a Zero Emissions recommendation for us by our December meeting. The council plans to study this issue in February.

Guiding Principles

Caitlin, Eric, and Jing have been following up on the city manager's request to review the guiding principles that appear on the city council agenda and other COBI documents. We are working on recommendations for an approach to review these guidelines with an equity perspective, incorporating all three pillars of sustainability—environment, economy, and equity—not just environment, and paying attention to vague words that historically can lead to interpretations that are discriminatory. The group may have recommendations ready for the December meeting.

c. City Council Meeting Report

Nothing reported.

d. Report Out Matters

- What are the follow-up steps towards the full council using the draft race equity toolkit in the DEIS process?
- Security at REAC meetings.

e. Other Items

REAC membership, participation, and responsibilities.

Renni would like to see the work more equally spread out among the group, especially because there are now seven instead of nine members. Let's try to match skills and interests for maximum impact. REAC members were asked to email everything they're working on so a visual representation can be created to capture our efforts.

Lynn asked if REAC would have the opportunity to provide input or be involved in planning of the public spaces for the affordable housing project by the ferry. Anshu will inquire with Blair.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Tonight, BISD is taking public comment on the process for choosing a superintendent.
- At the City Council meeting on Nov. 12, there will be two proclamations: Christina (Corpuz Peato), from the school district will accept the Native American Heritage Month Proclamation. Eve Palay will accept the Transgender Awareness Week Proclamation.
- Association of WA Cities (AWC) is offering its annual scholarship, Center for Quality Communities, to high school seniors interested in local government. An ad hoc committee will make a recommendation to AWC. Three scholarships will be awarded. Encourage seniors to apply!

ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Approved: January 8, 2025