

HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

Race Equity Advisory Council Meeting Notes

Date: March 18, 2021

Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Location: MS Teams

In attendance:

Council members: Amani Berry, Biiftuu Ibrahim Adam, Deran Cadotte, Farhia Mohamed, Johnathon McClellan, Larry Hiscock, Latasha Jennings, Mahogany Ellis Crutchfield, Mukul Sheila Webb, Tekia Jefferson

Not Present: Alexis Murillo, Farhia Mohamed, Paul Beshah. Sheila Webb

County Staff: Chela Guzman-Wiegert, Mercy Das, Pat Zagaros, Randy Larson, Robert Gruba, Vinodh Kutty

Guests: Hennepin County Commissioner Jeff Lunde, Commissioner Aides Vicky Soukaseum and Anna Schmiel

- 1) Introduction of new member Maimon Queeglay
- 2) March meeting agenda approved
Tekia Jefferson moved to approve, Deran Cadotte seconded. 10 Ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain.
- 3) February meeting notes approved.
Mahogany Ellis-Crutchfield moved to approve, Deran Cadotte seconded. 10 Ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain
- 4) Commissioner Lunde introduced himself and in response to questions from members spoke about:
 - a. Currently working on eviction moratorium
 - b. Metro Blue Line extension: Has been working with Commissioner Fernando and been very vocal to Met Council. Robbinsdale and North Minneapolis are concerned about the route's impact on their communities so the engagement process needs to give voice to and address their concerns.

Racial equity priorities for the county are:

- a. inequities in health system: need to improve vaccination rates for indigenous and black communities. There are efforts through Hennepin Health and North Memorial to take vaccines to the community and people in hi-rises.
- b. Plan for criminal justice reform: review data so solutions are targeted to groups that need help most to get out of jail.

- 5) Open Meeting discussion:

Article VII section 5 of the bylaws state: All meeting are subject to Minneaosta Open Meetings Law in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13D.

Questions to be addressed:

- a. Are meetings recorded?
- b. What is the schedule to start inperson meetings?
- c. Does everyone have to have their cameras on?
- d. How are emails handled under the open meeting law? How many people can receive an email?
- e. Is posting information on Basecamp and receiving a response acceptable under the open meeting law?

Suggestions:

Since meetings have full agenda already, don't use the chat function for the first few meetings. Instead provide an email that residents can use to comment and assess later.

6) Stipend discussion

State statute 375.47 precludes the Hennepin County board of commissioners from providing a stipend. Hennepin County guidelines allow reimbursement of expenses for mileage, parking and childcare.

7) Updates from Committees:

- Child Protection: Mahogany Ellis-Crutchfield
 - Met twice, once with staff from Children and Family services.
 - Members who would like to participate in child protection discussions please let Mahogany know.
- Civic Engagement: Amani Berry on behalf of Sheila Webb
 - Had conversation with Hennepin County elections outreach staff and have a list of organizations to contact.
 - Will choose a couple of focus areas.
- Education: No report since Farhia Mohamed was unable to attend.
- Housing: Larry Hiscock
 - Meeting every two weeks.
 - Discussed information from the board briefing on housing
 - Discussing having a table talk to gather community input
 - Concerns from the Blue Line coalition have been posted on Basecamp.
- Public Safety/Justice: Latasha Jennings
 - Meetings are scheduled twice a month. Current meeting times don't seem to be working for all. Please post times that would work on basecamp.
 - One area of interest is correctional health care.

8) Announcements and discussion

- I. Take survey—link is on basecamp
- II. Climate action engagement plan review: The current engagement plan has a lot of the ideas that were suggested by this council. The council is mentioned in many places.
- III. April meeting: County engagement strategy and Commissioner Fernando
- IV. Report structure: Committee chairs are meeting at the end of the month to develop a process and structure.
- V. Commissioner LaTondresse will come to the May meeting.
- VI. Invite Commissioners Conley and Greene to come again? Yes
- VII. Is Council interested in Chela Guzman talking about the REIT (Race Equity Impact Tool) in the budget process in May—Yes
- VIII. Dr Rachel Hardeman will be presenting at Hennepin County on May 18th from noon to 1:00 pm on the intersection of Race, Health and Justice. All are welcome to attend.

9) Meeting adjourned on motion by Debjyoti Dwivedy and seconded by Biiftuu Adam. 11 Ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain.