

MINUTES
Belonging Equity & Inclusion Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 14, 2022
6:30 - 8:00 PM City Hall, Second Floor Conference Room

Board Members Present: Leah Christopher (chair); Reier Erickson (vice chair); Reese Kelly; Mareesa Miles; Preston Fuller; Clark Sheldon

Via Zoom: Eliana Castro

Members of the public present: Jeffery Nelson

Via Zoom: Kathi Fuller, Dianne, Eliana and James

1. Call to Order

Leah Christopher called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

2. Land Acknowledgement - Reier Erickson

Reier Erickson delivered the Land Acknowledgement.

3. Agenda Introduction & Review

Reier Erickson asked why the agenda introduction didn't come first in the meeting.

Reier Erickson motioned to move the agenda comments to the beginning of the meeting.

Reese Kelly seconded.

Motion Passed.

4. Public Comment on Agenda Items

No public comment.

5. Consider approval of May 10, 2022 Minutes (D&V)

Reier Erickson moved to approve May 10th minutes.

Seconded by Reese Kelly.

Motion passed.

6. Community Agreement - continued from May 10th meeting (D&V)

Leah Christopher reviewed community agreement notes and asked if anyone needed clarification on any items. Preston Fuller asked for clarification on the item "Call each other in." Reese Kelly and Eliana Castro explained it as a more positive way to call attention to behaviors.

Reese Kelly suggested printing out the agreements to put in the room. Reier Erickson agreed with this idea.

Reese Kelly offered to create a physical copy, Mareesa Miles offered to work together with him. This document will be available on July 12.

Reese Kelly and Leah Christopher discussed the importance of asking attendees to identify themselves in meetings. After a short discussion, the committee agreed to introduce themselves at the beginning of meetings after reading the Land Acknowledgement.

Reese Kelly moved to approve agreements as provided.

Preston Fuller seconded.

Motion passed.

7. Juneteenth work follow-up and Buffalo statement – Eliana Castro, PhD

Eliana Castro explained that she was asked by the city to write a statement about the Buffalo shooting. She explained that the city released a sanitized, miscredited version instead, which the board took issue with. Reier Erickson spoke about his similar experiences with the city and the biases he's noticed.

Preston Fuller suggested that the city instead provides more information on what is expected when a statement is requested of the BEI members, to avoid miscrediting and misunderstandings.

Eliana Castro said that she had limited voice in terms of what would be published, and that it would be more effective to instead do what Preston suggested as opposed to how her statement was handled.

Reese Kelly said he had noticed an issue with communication between the committee and the city, especially with ignoring requested advice. He has noticed a pattern of the city asking for and then ignoring suggestions.

Reier Erickson has also been confused by the city's tendency to ignore things they've requested of the BEI committee.

Leah asked for this to be an item on the next meeting's agenda, to give time to fully discuss the issue.

8. Rec Manager Interview follow-up – Reier Erickson

Reier Erickson said that his experience interviewing for the rec department was positive, and that he would like to see the committee do work like this in the future.

Leah Christopher asked if the committee would like to have a list of board members available for future interviews, in order to make the process of choosing a representative more efficient. Reese Kelly said that he likes this idea, and that he would also like to see more permanent involvement for committee actions.

Reier Erickson agreed with this but expressed his concern with tokenism from outside of the board. He disliked the idea of committee members being used to make things look better rather than showing effective change. Reier asked for this to be made an item on a future agenda. Clark Sheldon and Reese Kelly felt the same way.

9. July 12, 2022 meeting (D&V)

Leah Christopher asked if board members would like to meet during the summer.

Mareesa Miles motioned to continue meeting in the summer.

Reese Kelly seconded.

Motion Passed unanimously.

10. Public Comment on non agenda Items (limit 2 minutes per person)

Jeffery Nelson, a member of the public, wanted to express his full support for the BEI committee. He spoke about the changes, positive and negative, that he's seen in the city over the past year and his appreciation of the committee's activity.

11. July 12 BEI Committee Agenda Items

Leah Christopher asked if the committee would be comfortable adding newly discussed topics and receiving a survey about agenda items. Everyone was comfortable with this.

12. Other Business

The board discussed potential ways to make board meeting recordings more accessible to the public.

Reese Kelly asked if members would be receiving formal communication from the city in the future. He expressed his surprise and confusion at the committee not being notified about the voting off of a committee member. Reese Kelly asked to request more professional communication from the city to the board to avoid confusion.

Reier Erickson provided more examples of poor communication issues beyond just the BEI committee. Reese Kelly explained that this is a good opportunity to request better communication and outline what exactly would be helpful changes.

Reese Kelly suggested the city send a letter/email explaining their decisions and actions regarding boards so board members are notified quickly. Mareesa Miles agreed that transparency would be appreciated in the future.

13. Executive Session

Leah Christopher explained that:

- a. The Committee finds that premature disclosure of discussion around matters related to public safety would compromise the City or person(s) involved (D&V)
- b. The Committee moves to enter Executive Session for purposes of discussing a matter related to public safety (D&V)

Mareesa Miles Motioned to move to executive session and include August Hawkins and Jason Weatherby.

Seconded by Preston Fuller.

Motion passed.

Executive Session entered.

14. Adjourn

Leah Christopher adjourned the meeting at 8:45 PM.

Next meeting will be held July 12.