

**MINUTES**  
**ST. ALBANS CITY BELONGING, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**ST. ALBANS CITY HALL, 100 NORTH MAIN STREET**  
**6:00 PM TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024**

*Approved December 17, 2024*

**Committee Members Present:** Carl Watkins, Co-Chair; Moira Jamieson-Brooks, Co-Chair (Via Zoom); Anais Olshan; Mareesa Miles (Via Zoom); Preston Fuller (Via Zoom); Melyssa Bailey (Via Zoom)

**Committee Members Absent:** Vikki La Rose

**City Staff present:** Paul Olshan (Minute-taker); Chip Sawyer (Director of Planning and Development)

**Members of the public present:** Scott Bushey and Zane (no last name given) from St. Albans Pride Corps.

- 1. C. Watkins began the meeting.**
  - No introductions or agenda deletions/additions.
2. C. Watkins read the Land Acknowledgement.
3. No Public Comment
4. C. Watkins asked the Committee if they had any additions or comments about the equity funding ideas for events and other programs. He also gave his thoughts on the recent election and what the responsibilities of the BEI might be in the future.
- 5. M. Miles motioned to approve the minutes from October, as presented. Seconded by P. Fuller. The motion passed with all in favor. No additional discussion.**
- 6. S. Bushey and Zane joined the meeting at 6:08 PM.**
7. M. Miles asked if anyone had come forward requesting equity funding for events or projects. The committee brainstormed ideas for events or community meetups during the winter. C. Sawyer recommended that the BEI Committee speak to Arleigh Young to share any ideas. M. Jamieson-Brooks said it would be a good idea to host during January

or February when people are tired of the winter. The committee explored hosting at the Hard'Ack lodge on February 8, 2025.

- **M. Bailey motioned for C. Sawyer to take steps to implement this project for that date, discussing potential dates at an upcoming meeting. Seconded by M. Jamieson-Brooks. The motion passed with all in favor. There would be no subcommittees since the whole committee wanted to be involved. M. Jamieson-Brooks would come up with a list of objectives to delegate for the next meeting.**

8. Continue discussion on Movies That Matter

- The committee decided to have a mid-season break during the holiday season to brainstorm ideas for Movies That Matter in the new year.
- **P. Fuller left the meeting at 6:36.**

9. Conversation on economic and social status biases and possible discussion with the Community Advisory Board of the Restorative Justice Center.

- C. Watkins began a brief discussion on social status biases in recent public conversations about safety and restorative justice.

10. Pride and Juneteenth event updates

- S. Bushey updated the committee on progress with sponsors, arrangements with The Depot. Pride would be hosting a Volunteer Meeting on Thursday from 6-7. The Depot would be hosting a show this Saturday as well.
- There was a brief conversation about how these events would be advertised.
- S. Bushey mentioned there would be a free community supper early next year to get more input from the community about Pride events. There was a conversation about how reaching out to BFA and other schools for volunteers has been incredibly difficult.
- C. Watkins updated the committee on Juneteenth progress for 2025 and there would be a more substantial update next month.

11. Updates on other initiatives and subcommittees

- C. Watkins mentioned when the “All Are Welcome” banner was taken down and how he spoke for the BEI Committee when the banner was returned. He recommended sending a thank you letter to the city staff to foster the relationship and to ensure that committee voices are heard.

12. Other business

- No other business.

13. The BEI Committee confirmed that the next meeting would be December 17th, 2024. There was further conversation about the February meeting planning that would take place during the next meeting.
14. C. Watkins mentioned as his plus/delta that they got a lot done but people were very quiet.
- 15. The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 PM.**