

MINUTES
ST. ALBANS CITY BELONGING, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
ST. ALBANS CITY HALL, 100 NORTH MAIN STREET
6:00 PM TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

Approved July 2, 2024

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

Committee Members Absent: None.

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

Members of the public present: Kurt Hersey; Scott Bushey; Winnie Wilkinson (via Zoom).

1. **M. Miles began the meeting at 6:00 PM.**
 - The committee went through introductions.
 - **M. Jamieson-Brooks joined the meeting at 6:02.**
2. **P. Fuller motioned to approve the April Minutes as written. Seconded by V. La Rose. The motion passed with all in favor. No additional discussion.**
3. M. Miles read the Land Acknowledgement and BEI Committee Values.
4. Public Comment on Agenda/Non-agenda items.
 - **W. Wilkinson joined the meeting at 6:05.** She updated the BEI Committee on the Juneteenth event process. It will be occurring on June 19th in Taylor Park with a keynote speaker, a gumbo competition, and vendors. She also updated the committee on key differences between the upcoming Juneteenth in 2024 and a potential Juneteenth in 2025.
 - **M. Bailey joined the meeting at 6:07.**
 - **K. Hersey and S. Bushey joined the meeting at 6:09.**
 - The committee asked several clarifying questions to W. Wilkinson. K. Hersey presented the gumbo competition award plaque.
 - **The committee recommended the city cover the cost of the gumbo competition award, which was under \$50.**

- **W. Wilkinson left the meeting at 6:17.**
5. **Review original creation and objectives of BEI Committee.** M. Miles thought this would be a good time to review the city charter for the BEI Committee. M. Miles read the BEI Committee Objectives.
 6. **C. Watkins began the discussion on policies for equity initiative funding recommendations.** He presented a draft of a recommendation form that the BEI could submit. The committee generally approved of this form. C. Watkins also suggested putting this on a future agenda.
 - V. La Rose mentioned that in the future her events will not be looking for funding from the City of St Albans, but would welcome the addition of this form.
 7. **K. Hersey and S. Bushey updated the BEI Committee on the Pride 2024 event taking place in June.** They presented the new flier and other information. They listed the myriad of events, performers, and coordinators participating.
 - M. Miles thanked K. Hersey and S. Bushey for both organizing the event and for their core values.
 - V. La Rose asked about who would be marching in the parade, as well as the speaker lineup. V. La Rose volunteered to make a basket for the events.
 - A. Olshan mentioned reaching out to Kat at Awaken Yoga for gift donations.
 - P. Fuller asked about the donation floor and mentioned that he's part of a few committees of local business owners who would like to donate at a lower price point.
 8. **C. Watkins began the review on the subcommittee structure.** C. Watkins specified that subcommittees originally were designed to complete work that would otherwise be too extensive to complete during regular meetings. He recommended that subcommittees be specific about their places on agendas instead of revisiting them every meeting.
 - M. Jamieson-Brooks agreed and thought this process would be more manageable than how it's working right now. A. Olshan agreed with this. There was a discussion on closing subcommittees and recurring events throughout the city.
 - C. Watkins recommended closing the benchmark and needs assessment subcommittees until they are needed again.
 - **C. Watkins motioned to get rid of the official updates on initiatives and subcommittees section on future agendas in favor of requested specific updates as they come up. Seconded by A. Olshan. The motion passed with all in favor. No additional discussion.**
 9. **C. Sawyer began the discussion on stakeholder responses for the 2025 City Plan.** He

went through the stakeholder responses one by one.

- The Committee gave additional input, like new hopes and ideas for where the city should be in 2033. The committee proposed ways to support messages and speech that allows for equity and inclusion.
- There were various discussions on additions to the stakeholder input

10. Updates on initiatives and subcommittees.

- TATU2024 Hip Hop Showcase. V. La Rose updated the committee on TATU2024 attendance and how the event developed. C. Watkins commended V. La Rose for the TATU2024 showcase and how well it worked out. V. La Rose discussed the potential future for other events and fundraisers.

11. Other business.

- P. Olshan brought up a spelling error on the Pride poster.

12. Discuss next BEI Committee meeting and agenda items.

- The Movies That Matter would be taking place on the same day as the next BEI Committee meeting, so there was a discussion on whether it should be postponed. **C. Watkins motioned that the next meeting would be July 2, 2024. Seconded by V. La Rose. The motion passed with all in favor. There was a discussion on whether this meeting should be warned or not in case there are urgent matters, but this idea was voted down by the committee.**

13. M. Miles adjourned the meeting at 8:11 PM.