

PV Race & Equity Committee
Tuesday December 14th, 2021
7 pm, Zoom

1. Call to Order: 7:04pm

2. Roll Call:

Committee members: Kim Marinucci, Patt Baenen, Judith Murphy, Lucy Neely, Andrew Pierce, Cole Kawaja (joined at 7:30).

Council Liaisons: Maryann Derwin and John Richards

3. Oral Communications: None

4. Approve Meeting Minutes for November 9, 2021: add Patt to housing subcommittee. Judy motions for minutes to be approved as ammended. Pat seconds.

5. Old Business:

a) Subcommittee updates (Housing, Safe space, Town seal, Town policies, etc.)

Housing Subcommittee report — Judy: discussed housing covenants, attracting more racial diversity to town (finding out what our reputation is, how are we perceived vs Atherton, Woodside, etc. how can we change to be more welcoming?), how to stop conflating racial diversity with economic diversity, discussion of ad hoc housing committee.

Safe Space — Patt: met with Gwen, discussed what scenarios we could be helpful in. We aren't a fast-acting process/group. We could be a place for people that feel like they are disenfranchised or not represented in our community (but not setting it up like a complaint system). How can we get folks more represented? And increase cultural awareness in Portola Valley? 'Moving the needle'. Gwen is not able to be on subcommittee anymore, Pat invites other folks in. Still interested in creating a 'listening space'

Andrew: this can be a place where people are heard from. Example of transgender people coming to meetings when that was first coming into public discourse. We can help bring social issues to the conversation.

Kim: Gwen is resigning from the R&E committee due to family issues.

Town Seal — Kim: Subcommittee of four met. Interested in creating a year-long program to engage the issues that come up around the town seal. [Cole joins @ 7:30]. Kim shares goals we came up with. Andrew asks about 'grieve the history and the living legacy of such historical losses'. Kim: it speaks to some of the emotional process that tends to come up in a conversation like this.

6. New Business:

a) Manzanita Works:

Judy: \$115,000 jumped out initially as a large figure. Also thought 'isn't some of this the work for the race and equity committee?' Would prefer to use Manzanita Works as a supplemental consultant. Very covid-focused.

Andrew: talked to some people in Palo Alto about Manzanita works and didn't get 100% favorable reviews.

Kim: does understand the price tag for the work, but the proposal seems very vague.

Judy: Could give the R&E committee 1/3 of the budget and then we could use that money in a more targeted way.

Andrew: Seems like a service geared more towards a municipality with 10x our population.

Patt: too much and not enough focus.

Lucy: what they are offering sounds like what Patt has been describing.

b) MLK National Day of Service

Maryann: has wanted to do this for several years, couldn't last year with Covid. Probably too late to start much, but could have a program at the corner, could join with other municipalities.

Wanted to get it on our radar so that even if it doesn't happen next month, it could happen next year.

Judy: could be a good opportunity to do outreach to nearby local municipalities.

Kim: can amplify what other people are doing. Would be good for us to develop a calendar to anticipate programming.

Judy: we could post on the PVForum about local events.

Maryann: I could work on this.

c) Indigenous Peoples

Lucy: I've been in contact with some of the tribes who regard Portola Valley as part of their ancestral territory, and am excited about it and wanted to share. The two main tribes are the Ramaytush who are located more in the northern part of the SF Peninsula, and the Tamien who are located more in Santa Clara Valley. They've been very friendly and I'm happy to be in touch with them.

Maryann: what about Muwekma?

Lucy: my understanding is based on some maps that I looked at is Ramaytush and Tamien.

Kim: Muwekma has been included in many instances. Went through this process with my church. Dan Quinn put me in touch with Dr. Laura Jones at Stanford. She regarded Muwekma as the people in Palo Alto.

Andrew: I have a book about Jasper Ridge that might be contain information about this. I've also worked with indigenous tribes and sometimes it can get sensitive with each other.

Kim: yes, different tribes have different opinions. Ramaytush are more organized and active right now, organizing online.

Maryann: so it could be that two or three tribes lived here?

Lucy: it seems like it's complex and sensitive and tribes have different opinions.

d) Budget

Judy: we did a budget already, correct? Don't need details, just need overall sum and that the sum aligns with the committee priorities.

John: that sounds right, there might not be a hard fast date with that.

Judy: to Kim, doesn't need to be a big deal. It's not too formal.

e) Committee Membership for 2022:

Kim: we do have two open spots. Is anyone not going to serve in 2022?

Judy: and wasn't there someone interested from the town picnic?

Kim: I got in touch with him, hope he can come to the next meeting.

7. Adjournment: Kim makes a meeting to adjourn meeting at 8:29. Patt seconds. Meeting adjourned at 8:30.