

PV Race & Equity Committee
Tuesday January 10th, 2022
7 pm, Zoom

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call — 7:03

Committee members present: Kim Marinucci, Patt Baenen, Johnathan Clark, Judith Murphy, Lucy Neely, Andrew Pierce. Not present: Cole Kawaja

Town Council members present: Maryann Moise Derwin and and John Richards

Members of Public: Jerrie Welch and Rita Comes

3. Oral Communications

Maryann: Jeremy recommends that we submit something in writing saying why we don't recommend Manzanita Works proposal. Maryann and Kim will work on this together.

Lucy: acknowledging that I had my foot in my mouth a bit last meeting, and upon further research think it's accurate to say that the Tamien, Ramaytush, and Muwekma people all claim this place as their ancestral territory; that it's a delicate subject and people will different opinions.

4. Approve Meeting Minutes for December 14, 2021

Judy: change to 'approved as written' instead of 'as seconded'.

Kim: by 'the people here' i meant 'in Palo Alto'.

Judy moves to approve the minutes, Lucy seconded, all in favor, motions passes.

5. Old Business:

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

Judy: *Housing subcommittee* —didn't have a subcommittee meeting. Judy reached out to three local realtors about attracting more racial diversity to PV two responded and willing to discuss.

Judy met with Melvin Gaines, new assistant town manager, on same topic.

Lucy: gain any insight from Melvin?

Judy: Melvin thought it would be good for PV to makes itself more attractive in general, not just to POC.

Andrew: ADHEC is going to meet twice this month. It's strange that we're not on the committee of committees.

Lucy: any insights from committee of committees?

Judy: every committee was focused on their own issues, but the two biggest items of discussion were 1) safety and concern that housing process/element is progressing before safety element update. 2) ministerial process and checklist. R&E is only committee not represented there, because we have a representative on the full ADHEC. She presented to the CofC items of concern to us: 1) that racial equity should not be conflated with economic equity and 2) that social divisions should not be created by putting all low income housing in one place.

Lucy: I looked into the inclusionary in-lieu fund, communicated with Jeremy about it.

Maryann: that will be on agenda tomorrow night. Willow Commons is asking for \$3million dollars.

Andrew: is the fund from Blue Oaks?

Maryann: yes, and realistically probably bc blue oaks folks didn't want affordable housing up there, not because it wasn't logistically feasible. Town was given land by developer and then sold it. Some money also came from a project on Westridge.

Judy: I hope an ad hoc committee that formed around this would include representative of the R&E Committee. Lucy, I'm surprised the Finance Committee doesn't have opinions about this?

Andrew: in PA they hoard that money and then they buy apartment buildings when they can. That's how it's done in bigger communities.

Safe Space Subcommittee:

Patt: for the committee that I was working on with Gwen, I'm going to put it on pause. Don't want to spread our committee too thin right now. I will find a place for it.

Town Seal Subcommittee:

Kim: we got good feedback at the last meeting, so we went back to the drawing board a bit. To be clear, we don't think this is the most important issue, but we do think it's a good vehicle to enter into and practice conversations. We don't want to cancel Portola. We want to weave a program that includes history, expert perspectives, skill building in conversation and reflection.

Lucy: want to collaborate with Historical Resources Committee

Kim: this is the chronology: february and march — focus groups, eg schools, churches, Sequoias.

Judy: Farmers market would also be a good audience.

Kim: then we synthesize what we learn from focus groups and design the program in April, offer the program in May - November, make a recommendation to Town Council at end of year.

Rita Comes: related to working in schools, can we work on 'pioneer day' in the schools? How are African-American kids supposed to fit into that?

Kim: Thank you Rita, I wasn't aware of that. Something that is interesting about the town seal is that it's not high stakes, so it might be a good place to start these conversations. And would make something like pioneer day, which might be more charged, more accessible.

Patt: the markets (Ladera and Roberts) could be a good place for focus group. Easier to get more people engaged when there's at least two people from the committee.

Lucy: do we need to vote on this?

John: normally you would write something up and have the whole committee vote on it before taking action outside the committee.

2) Activity for the MLK National Day of Service on January 17 (Judy)

Judy: reached out to all local churches and heard from no one. Presenting activities to the public based on covid-exposure level. If we want to offer something ourselves next year, we'd want to get started on it earlier, put it on the November agenda.

Patt: in the future, we could support groups in their programming

Kim: this has made me aware that it would be good to look at the calendar with a Race & Equity lens so that we anticipate and have time to plan.

Rita: MLK can be celebrated any day, doesn't have to be on that Monday. Black History Month is February. Is there anything scheduled?

Judy: would be good to form a black history month subcommittee. Who can help? Rita Comes can help, Patt volunteers, Andrew will gather information on happenings but not be on subcommittee.

3) Town Council annual workshop with commissions and committees (January 26); present our priorities and budget

6. Adjournment: Kim motions, Pat seconds. 7:51pm