



Thurston County Council on Racial Equity and Inclusion

Thursday, November 17, 2022

5:00pm – 7:00pm

Via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Council Members	Present
Evelyn Clark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jason Clark	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tabissa Gainey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Auzimuth Jackson PHD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Keoki Kauanoe	<input type="checkbox"/>
Juliet Lawson-Hall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marlon Wakefield	<input type="checkbox"/>

Public: None

County Staff: County Manager, Ramiro Chavez

Meeting called to order at 5:02

Agenda Item #1: Introductions conducted, and no accessibility needs identified from the group.

Agenda Item #2: County Manager Ramiro Chavez Vision for the Council: Ramiro talked to this council about sharing some ideas and thoughts. He stated to the council, “My mission is to do everything I can to change the stereotype that American society’s impression of Hispanic people – whether we have an accent or not – we are judged by the color of our skin – it gives me passion for what I do and energy for everything that I do”.

Mr. Chavez stated that in 2020 – “there was a sense of urgency to do something – whatever we do – it needs to be meaningful, achievable and sustainable – what we experienced in 2020 was one spike – not a single incident – so many spikes – what I see is the systemic issues that we need to address as a society. It was not about just making a statement or drafting a resolution – it’s about producing tangible results – no elected officials needed to be part of this group – it needs to be community members like you who can make changes and build bridges and connect with the issues that can be uncomfortable to talk about it – this is systemic and a long journey. Very deep and rooted and complex – it takes absolute commitment to take on this task – from the bottom of my heart I thank you.”

Council member Jackson spoke: When we answered the call that the county issued – we did so knowing this is a historic movement and the grave impacts this would have if it failed. We are all here in the spirit of trying to raise success and longevity and sustainable impacts.

Questions: In our mode of governance – what would you like us to do in the immediate future to make changes – from an administrative review – how to do you see this council being productive in assisting all departments in the county as we meet with residents – moving forward the work of equity –

Where can we support meaningful advisement to the board?

Main thing in our last meeting is what can't we do? In developing the work plan and the vision the county has meaningful and measurable and tangible results.

County Manager suggested that the group engage in a visioning exercise about what they want to see from their work on the council (activity on agenda).

Council Chair Lawson-Hall stated that the council wants to transform lives – can we make recommendations to staff or equity in property ownership I also followed my heart and immigrated to this county.

The group discussed recording the meetings so that minutes can be take

Discussion about having private meetings outside of the meeting – it was explained that there was a charter subcommittee that was working and that private meetings were not occurring.

Council members agree that we need to formalize our bylaws and operating procedures – the OPMA is something of great importance to everyone.

Its important that we talk about what we do if we don't have a quorum and we make sure that everyone's dignity is respected. Charter will include attendance requirements. What do council members need to establish a culture of dignity?

Considerations for when we meet and mindful of staff time – sustainability in terms of our meetings.

It was suggested that one week prior to the meeting, people need to give notice of attendance

We discussed having a standing date and time for the meetings. Looking at a 4-6 timeslot – Nicole will schedule a doodle poll.

Stipend Conversation. Jamad Conley – Potential Unleashed – the library would pay to have him come speak at the open house – discussed using him and considering local DEIB consultants.

Agenda Item #3: Approval of the October 2022 Minutes and the Consent Agenda was tabled until the next meeting as several council members were not able to attend.

Agenda Item #4: Mission Moment ~ County Manager's Vision took the place of this item.

Agenda Item #5: Stipend Discussion: Tabled until the next board meeting as several council members were not able to attend.

Agenda Item #6: Regional Approach to Pro-Equity Work: Tabled until the next board meeting as several council members were not able to attend.

Agenda Item #8: Follow up Items – No follow up actions identified.

Councilmember Jackson moves to adjourn – Council Co-Chair Gainey seconded the motion – all in favor
Meeting Adjourned at 6:13pm

Meeting meetings completed by Nicole Miller, MA, CDE ®

Thurston County Racial Program Manager

For Follow-Up:

ITEM NEEDING FOLLOW-UP	ACTION/RESOLUTION	DATE COMPLETED
Data with breakdowns by race of populations distribution mapped by length of residency and property residency	Email inquiry as to where to find this information sent 11/14/22	In progress
History of the County Tax rate over a 20-year period.	Thurston County Treasurer's Office Tax Rates (thurstoncountywa.gov) Is this the information you want for the past 20 years or something different?	In progress
Copy of Mary Ann O'Garro's presentation	Emailed to Council as requested	11/2/2022
Examples of Other Charters	6 examples emailed to Council	10/26/2022
County Email Address for Council	Emails sent to IT on 9/20/22 & 10/21/22 and 1/3/23 with no answer yet	In progress
Are council meetings required to be recorded?	Meetings are not required to be recorded.	11/16/2022
Is Intern or Councilmember support available/allowed to work on the webpage	The BoCC intern is not available at this time. It is a possible resource in future	Ongoing
Doodle Poll will be sent out to schedule next meeting	There was only one date that was suggested for the November Meeting – no doodle poll needed.	NA
Can the council have name tags?	It has not been done before. Will inquire further.	In progress
Schedule Open House	By March 2023 in new building	In progress
Create 2023 Meeting Schedule	2023 Schedule completed.	1/5/2023
Charter	Draft available for 2/23 meeting	In progress
RE Action Plan – final recommendations	Estimated completed 1/31/2023	In progress