

**CITY OF BELLEVUE
CENTERING COMMUNITIES OF COLOR COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes**

June 13, 2023
5:30 p.m.

City Hall
Conference Room 1E-120

ATTENDEES: Amirah Haque, Chair
Monik Martinez, Vice Chair
Joel Leiva-Rodriguez
Kananu Mason
Dr. Randy Nunez
Ricardo Perezchica
Ryan Qualls
Jeri Tiernan
Royce Yuen

ABSENT: Lalita Uppala

STAFF: Dr. Marcus Johnson, Diversity, Inclusion and Outreach
Administrator, City Manager's Office
Sara Boyle, Equity Coordinator (CMO)

CONSULTANT: Joshua Barr

MINUTES WRITER: Kelly Wilson, City Clerk's Office

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m. by Chair Haque.

2. ROLL CALL

Attendees are listed above.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved by consensus.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None.

5. CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair Haque noted that with the community dialogues being scheduled, now is the time for CCC committee members to contact the individuals and organizations they identified through the previous network mapping process.

6. STAFF UPDATES

(a) New Members

Dr. Johnson announced that there are three new CCC committee members.

(b) CCC Stipends

Dr. Johnson said committee members receive a \$50 stipend for each meeting they attend.

(c) Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network (BDAN) Collaborators

Dr. Johnson said he met with the BDAN's DEI subcommittee. He noted that Jim Lauinger is the BDAN liaison to the CCC Committee.

Mr. Lauinger said the BDAN DEI subcommittee is newly formed. The BDAN committee is made up of 21 members appointed by the city manager to provide input on matters brought forth by the city manager, directors and staff. Members must live or work in Bellevue and have cultural connections to and knowledge of diverse populations.

Ms. Boyle noted that the CCC Committee was formed to provide recommendations to the City Council regarding policies and best practices. The BDAN group works internally with the City Manager and other staff to provide culturally responsive counsel on how to engage Bellevue's diverse populations. Dr. Johnson commented on the importance of the CCC Committee and BDAN working together and knowing what each other are doing.

(d) Community Dialogue Teams

Ms. Boyle presented a draft schedule for the community dialogues beginning on Saturday, July 29, and extending through Wednesday, August 23. There will be two co-facilitators and one notetaker for each session with potential support from BDAN members as well. CCC Committee members are not expected to participate in every community dialogue.

Responding to Chair Haque, CCC Committee members agreed to provide the dates they are available for community dialogues to Ms. Boyle by Friday.

Ms. Boyle said staff will contact BDAN members as well to determine their availability and interest in participating. She said Mr. Barr will be here during the week leading up to the first dialogue on July 29 to provide training for facilitators and notetakers.

Mr. Barr said he would like to talk to the participants at the end of the community dialogues to solicit feedback and their impressions of the process. He said flexibility is important to achieve the maximum benefit from the discussions. He said the discussions should elicit input that can be used to inform policy recommendations.

Mr. Barr recommended against allowing video recordings of the community dialogues out of respect for everyone's privacy and to avoid inhibiting the conversations. The committee concurred. He noted that Washington is a two-party consent state, and individuals cannot be recorded without their consent. Mr. Barr said the intent of the dialogues is to have honest communication.

(e) Community Dialogue Messaging

Ms. Boyle said staff will develop consistent messaging to be used for social media posts, emails and other communications. The information will be translated into the top seven languages spoken in Bellevue.

Responding to Mr. Barr, Ms. Boyle said the registration form will ask whether registrants are able to engage in discussions in English and, if not, what language they would like to request. Ms. Boyle said the City has access to interpreters in a number of languages.

(f) CCC Committee Member Bios and Website

Dr. Johnson said staff is working to update the committee's web page, including the addition of members' backgrounds and photos.

Dr. Johnson noted that Ms. Tiernan attended the City Council meeting the previous evening to accept the proclamation recognizing Juneteenth Day. Ms. Tiernan said she was involved in driving health equity in her previous position and was a co-founder of the company's equity work group. At that time, when preparing to speak on Juneteenth Day, she was asked to remove some of the information contained in her planned comments. Ms. Tiernan said she was glad she was able to tell the full story during the Council meeting of Fannie Lou Hamer, who was given a hysterectomy without her consent under Mississippi's compulsory sterilization plan directed primarily toward women of color.

7. COMMUNITY DIALOGUES WITH JOSHUA BARR: PHASE 2

Committee members talked about providing food for the community dialogue sessions. Mr. Barr suggested using a caterer from a local community of color and serving the food as participants arrive.

Mr. Barr referenced an article he sent to committee members to provide guidance for the community dialogues. He played a video of his work with the City of Des Moines (Iowa) depicting how the input from the community dialogues was used, noting that he also sent the video to committee members. Mr. Barr said the next step after the community dialogues is to compile the input of all of the sessions and to use it to inform policy recommendations.

Ms. Boyle said the City is currently involved in a number of strategic planning efforts to guide future policy decisions and actions. She suggested that certain recommendations might be more appropriate and relevant for specific plans (e.g., diversity, environmental stewardship, affordable housing, etc.) and/or committees (e.g., Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network, Boards, Commissions, etc.).

Ms. Boyle and Mr. Barr commented on the training to be held the week of July 24 before the first community dialogue late that week.

Chair Haque said the community dialogues will be held at a number of locations including City facilities (e.g., City Hall, community centers) and potentially libraries, schools and other locations.

Committee members discussed additional details about scheduling and conducting the community dialogues.

Ms. Tiernan suggested asking dialogue participants to complete a survey following the sessions to provide feedback on the overall process. Mr. Barr said he would provide examples he has used in the past.

Responding to Ms. Boyle, Mr. Barr said each dialogue session should be staffed with two co-facilitators, with one taking notes to help facilitate throughout the discussion. He recommended having a second notetaker to capture more detailed comments and overall themes to help inform later recommendations regarding policies and practices.

Ms. Boyle said the public will be able to register online for a community dialogue. Mr. Barr said the ideal number of participants is 16-20 people and not more than 30 people. He said the dialogues are intended for small groups and are designed to enable capturing the community voice in a way that is substantive for moving forward with actions.

Committee members discussed their interest in recruiting a broad range of individuals to participate in the community dialogues that cuts across racial, economic, professional, generational, ethnic and other categories. Mr. Barr recommended including youth in each dialogue session as well.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

/kaw