

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

July 11, 2023
5:30 p.m.

City Hall
Conference Room 1E-120

ATTENDEES: Amirah Haque, Chair
Joel Leiva-Rodriguez (Remote)
Kananu Mason (Remote)
Dr. Randy Nunez
Ricardo Perezchica
Jeri-Elizabeth Tiernan
Ryan Qualls (Remote)
Lalita Uppala (Remote)
Royce Yuen (Remote)

ABSENT: Monik Martinez, Vice Chair

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

BDAN LIAISON: Jim Lauinger

CONSULTANT: Joshua Barr

MINUTES WRITER: Kelly Wilson, City Clerk’s Office

1. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Johnson opened the meeting at 5:45 p.m. and welcomed City Councilmember Jeremy Barksdale.

2. ROLL CALL

Attendance is noted above.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved by consensus.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: None.

5. **CHAIR'S COMMENTS:** None.
6. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.
7. **STAFF UPDATES**

- (a) Community Dialogue Confirmation, Messaging, Locations, Attendees

Dr. Johnson said the first community dialogue is scheduled for July 29 and Mr. Barr will arrive earlier that week to provide training for the facilitators and notetaker.

Mr. Barr said he would need eight hours over two or three sessions for training. He said the community dialogues should generate substantive discussion to inform policy recommendations.

Dr. Johnson suggested training CCC members on July 27 and other participants (e.g., BDAN members, City's Diversity Advantage Team) on July 25 and July 26.

Mr. Barr said each person should attend at least two training sessions. He said three hours is not adequate for the training needed. He noted that one aspect of the training is to understand the types of people anticipated to participate and how to handle different people and situations that might occur.

Responding to Ms. Tiernan, Dr. Johnson said he would attend the training sessions. Mr. Barr said the training could be completed over two 3-hour sessions if necessary.

Mr. Lauinger noted that BDAN has a meeting on July 25.

Ms. Boyle said she would work with Mr. Barr to schedule the sessions. Mr. Barr said he is available the full week leading up to July 29 except for the morning of July 25.

Councilmember Barksdale asked whether any pre-training materials were available to provide before the training sessions to familiarize participants with the general process.

Mr. Barr noted that the people who are listed as facilitators participated in the mock dialogue.

Responding to Ms. Boyle, Mr. Barr suggested that the CCC should also hold its regular meeting on July 27 to discuss logistics separate from the training sessions.

Dr. Johnson said he and Ms. Boyle have reached out to a number of organizations, had the dialogue materials translated into the top seven spoken languages in Bellevue, and worked with the City's communications staff to draft consistent messaging for CCC members to use for outreach to organizations and to invite people to the community dialogues. Dr. Johnson said locations have been secured for all of the dialogues except for the August 3 session.

Mr. Lauinger volunteered to post information about the dialogues at libraries in Bellevue.

Mr. Barr encouraged CCC members to reach out to the organizations and individuals they identified through the network mapping exercise. He encouraged inviting City Councilmembers and staff.

Ms. Uppala said the South Asian community gets together at the North Bellevue Community Center on Thursdays. She suggested scheduling a dialogue to coincide with their events. She said the local Chinese community gets together at the community center on Fridays and the Latino community meets at the community center on Mondays. She observed that the Southeast Asian community is listed as a target population but the South Asian community is not and no South Asian languages are listed.

Dr. Johnson said there was a limited availability of dates for using the community centers. He said staff had hoped to plan more sessions to coincide with other events and activities involving communities of color.

Ms. Uppala said the South Asian community would be willing to allow the use of their meeting time and space at the North Bellevue Community Center for the community dialogues on August 3. She noted that transportation is a challenge for many potential participants. Ms. Boyle said she would work with Ms. Uppala and the community center to try to schedule for August 3.

Dr. Nunez encouraged reaching out to individuals living in subsidized housing. Ms. Boyle said she would explore the potential for identifying a relevant location.

(b) CCC Bios and Website

Dr. Johnson said the CCC web page has been updated with members' background information but photos of members are still needed.

(c) CCC Summer Schedule

Responding to Dr. Johnson, committee members confirmed that the schedule is feasible.

Ms. Boyle suggested a goal for each CCC member to contact at least 10 organizations or individuals from their network maps.

Mr. Barr said the communications should extend beyond emails to include phone calls or personal conversations with individual contacts. He noted the importance of consistent messaging from CCC members.

Dr. Johnson highlighted staff's efforts to publicize the community dialogues and summarized the list of the many organizations that have been contacted to date. He encouraged CCC members to contact him if printed materials are needed in multiple languages.

The committee discussed inviting law enforcement and whether they should be in uniform. Mr. Barr recalled that, after the mock dialogue, CCC members talked about their interest in including representatives of all types across the community.

Following additional discussion, Dr. Nunez noted that police officers are part of the community and the public is most likely to interact with them in uniform. He suggested letting the officers decide what they want to wear. Mr. Barr concurred and noted that he has not encountered any problems related to this issue. He said most police officers who want to participate in the dialogues want to wear their uniforms.

Ms. Tiernan said the dialogue sessions should be welcoming with an emphasis on how they show up and participate versus how they are dressed. She said some participants might show up in other uniforms and it does not seem fair to focus on the police.

Dr. Nunez said the purpose is for an individual to show up as their authentic self and to talk about how they experience the community.

Mr. Barr said it is the job of the facilitator to handle any issues that might arise during the dialogues about the presence of police in uniforms. He said a key goal of the dialogues is to influence policy decisions. He has experienced situations in which police departments are resistant to change because they have not been involved in the discussions. He suggested limiting the number of officers in a dialogue sessions to three individuals.

Dr. Johnson said he has met with all of the Police Department majors to let them know about the upcoming community dialogues. He acknowledged there is skepticism among them that the sessions will turn into attacks against law enforcement.

Chair Haque said uniforms can represent positions of power and suggested asking all participants not to wear a uniform. She concurred with Mr. Barr that the facilitators can manage the dialogues to ensure that the sessions are productive and helpful for future policy recommendations.

Dr. Nunez expressed support for encouraging, but not requiring, everyone to wear casual, civilian clothes.

Moving on, Dr. Johnson asked whether CCC members had any security concerns related to the dialogue sessions.

Ms. Boyle suggested letting the Police Department know about the dialogue sessions in case an emergency arises. Dr. Johnson said there might be people who show up with the primary objective of disrupting the meeting.

Councilmember Barksdale said one police officer is typically present at City Council meetings.

Mr. Lauinger said he has observed officers at a number of community events and meetings.

At 7:06 p.m., the committee took a short break. The meeting resumed at 7:16 p.m.

8. COMMUNITY DIALOGUES WITH JOSHUA BARR: PHASE 2

(a) Community Dialogue Training and Process

Mr. Barr provided an overview of the training sessions and the role of the facilitators and notetakers. Training topics include: 1) setting the ground rules for the dialogues, 2) learning about the types of people that might be encountered (e.g., over-eager participant, disruptor, non-participant, politician or other person focused on self promotion, overly negative or overly positive participant, angry participant, conspiracy theorist, person who thinks they have all the answers, etc.), 3) the art of pulling out ideas that will be helpful later in developing policy recommendations, 4) practicing the dialogue with role playing, and 5) a debrief discussion.

Mr. Barr reiterated that it is critical for CCC members to begin contacting the organizations and individuals identified through the committee's previous network mapping process.

9. CLOSING

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

/kaw