

**CITY OF BELLEVUE  
COMMUNITIES OF COLOR COORDINATING (CCC) TEAM  
Meeting Minutes<sup>1</sup>**

September 12, 2023  
5:30 p.m.

City Hall  
Conference Room 1E-120

**ATTENDEES:** Monik Martinez, Chair  
Joel Leiva-Rodriguez  
Kananu Mason (Remote)  
Dr. Randy Nunez (Remote)  
Ricardo Perezchica  
Jeri Tiernan, Vice Chair (Remote)  
Royce Yuen (Remote)

**ABSENT:** Ruhi Gadde  
Ryan Qualls  
Lalita Uppala

**STAFF:** Dr. Marcus Johnson, Diversity, Inclusion and Outreach  
Administrator, City Manager’s Office  
Sara Boyle, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Outreach Administrator  
Erik Mercado, Equity Coordinator

**GUEST:** Joseph Todd, Deputy City Manager

**CONSULTANT:** Joshua Barr (Remote)

**BDAN LIAISON:** Jim Lauinger (Remote)

**MINUTES WRITER:** Kelly Wilson, City Clerk’s Office

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Chair Martinez.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Attendees are listed above.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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<sup>1</sup> No audio recording available for this meeting.

The agenda was approved by consensus.

**4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:** None.

**5. STAFF UPDATES**

Dr. Johnson encouraged everyone to begin using their City email accounts. He commented on new City Council rules regarding public comment, hate speech and meeting disruptions by members of the public.

Ms. Boyle described working on the City's cross-cultural programming initiative. She noted an upcoming community workshop in which every participant will be given the opportunity to speak if wanted.

**6. CHAIR'S COMMENTS**

Chair Martinez said the CCC Team was initially approved for a three-year period. She encouraged members to attend in person whenever possible and to be prepared to participate in discussions. She noted that Boards and Commissions allow only three members to participate virtually per meeting and she would like the CCC to follow that practice whenever possible.

Dr. Johnson said the City Attorney asked the CCC to update its bylaws. He noted the importance of attending meetings for the remainder of the year in order to complete the community dialogue work and prepare the report and presentation for the City Council.

Ms. Martinez suggested establishing work groups to divide the work and to meet outside of the two meetings per month. She noted the goal to develop a strategic plan by the end of the year. She suggested a strategic planning work group, event planning work group and policy recommendation work group.

Dr. Johnson and Ms. Boyle said staff will assist the work groups.

Mr. Barr suggested doing more in the future to generate interest in the CCC Team's work. He encouraged efforts to demonstrate the importance of this work.

Dr. Johnson suggested that the strategic planning work group review the original documents that established the CCC committee.

Ms. Martinez noted the tentative plan to hold a community event in November to present the results of the community dialogues and to present the CCC Team's report to the City Council in December if possible. Mr. Barr said participants of the community event should be asked to vote on their top priorities or concerns based on the community dialogue input.

Mr. Barr said it is important to understand the concerns and issues prior to the Council presentation, and none of the information should be a surprise prior to the discussion with the

Council. He said it would be good to understand the Council's concerns and priorities in advance.

## **7. COMMUNITY DIALOGUES WITH JOSHUA BARR: PHASE 2**

Mr. Barr described the process for reviewing and analyzing all of the input from the community dialogues in preparation for the CCC Team to develop its policy recommendations.

Mr. Barr and Dr. Johnson discussed the process going forward and the possible timeline for completing the current work.

Ms. Martinez asked the event planning work group to begin planning for the community event to present the community dialogue results.

## **8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Dr. Nunez and Ms. Martinez noted comments during the community dialogues about Bellevue schools and the relationship between the City and the school district. Ms. Martinez said the CCC Team provides a good opportunity for meaningful conversations to identify issues and to try to move them forward.

Mr. Barr recalled comments from the dialogues about housing, including horrible conditions in certain apartments and Section 8 housing. He suggested there should be a place where people can report problems with Section 8 housing.

Dr. Johnson said the CCC Team needs to learn more about the City's existing programs and services as it develops its policy recommendations.

Mr. Mercado encouraged greater engagement of the Latino community, especially in the area of housing.

Mr. Lauinger said a theme he observed during the community dialogues was that Bellevue has changed dramatically while City leadership has not changed enough. He commented on the rental protections in the unincorporated areas of King County. He noted that Kirkland and Redmond have renter protections but Bellevue does not.

Mr. Lauinger said another issue of concern is businesses that do not want to accept cash, which discriminates against individuals who do not have credit or debit cards.

Ms. Martinez concurred with the concerns about housing, including expensive deposits to move to a new place. She wondered how that could be addressed by the City.

Mr. Barr described how the final community meeting could be organized with facilitators stationed around a room to describe and discuss different topics and themes with the participants. He commented on the importance of attracting members of the community and building

relationships. He said only two or three City Councilmembers participated in the community dialogues.

Ms. Martinez said the event planning work group would identify a date and location for the November community meeting.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

/kaw