

**CITY OF BELLEVUE
COMMUNITIES OF COLOR COORDINATING (CCC) Team
Meeting Minutes**

October 26, 2023
5:30 p.m.

City Hall
Conference Room 1E-120

ATTENDEES:

Monik Martinez, Chair
Jeri Tiernan, Vice Chair (Remote)
Joel Leiva-Rodriguez
Kananu Mason (Remote)
Ricardo Perezchica
Ryan Quall
Lalita Uppala (Remote)
Royce Yuen

ABSENT:

Ruhi Gadde
Dr. Randy Nunez

STAFF:

Joe Todd, Deputy City Manager, City Manager's Office
Dr. Linda Whitehead, Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer (CMO)
Dr. Marcus Johnson, Diversity, Inclusion and Outreach Administrator (CMO)
Sara Boyle, Equity Coordinator (CMO)
Erik Mercado, Equity Coordinator (CMO)

CONSULTANT:

Joshua Barr (Remote)

BDAN LIAISON:

Jim Lauinger

MINUTES WRITER:

Kelly Wilson, City Clerk's Office

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:48 p.m. by Chair Martinez.

2. ROLL CALL

Attendees are listed above.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved by consensus.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Martinez said everyone should have received copies of the meeting minutes for review.

The group decided to defer action on the meeting minutes.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT AND CHAIR'S COMMENTS: None.

6. STAFF UPDATES

(a) CCC Communications/Staff Project Updates

Dr. Johnson said City Manager Brad Miyake would be retiring at the end of November and Diane Carlson will be Acting City Manager.

Dr. Johnson said the City is starting to receive RSVPs for the November 16 open house/ community meeting to review all of the community dialogues input and to ask the public to vote on their top priorities. He said City Councilmember Stokes will give opening remarks at the meeting. He said DEI staff has been working with Community Development staff, especially Arts Manager Lorie Hoffman, to find someone in the community who might be interested in providing illustrations for the theme/topic boards to be used at the meeting. Fliers have been printed in the top seven languages spoken in Bellevue to publicize the meeting, which will be held at Stevenson Elementary School.

Ms. Boyle provided an update on the cross-cultural programming project, which recently held its second of three community workshops. The third one will be held on December 6 and will be targeted for organizations and businesses that might be interested in contracting with the City for events.

(b) CCC Bylaws Update

Dr. Johnson said there have been significant updates to the bylaws, one of which addresses disruptions by members of the public during meetings. He said the City Attorney's Office will provide a presentation to the CCC Team in early January to discuss the rules and policies that apply to the City Council, Boards and Commissions, and the CCC committee. Dr. Johnson said the updated rules indicate that not more than three people on a group may participate remotely for a meeting. He said staff will make the decision as to the three committee members who will participate remotely if more than three people request remote participation. CCC Team members should provide 48-hour advance notice if they will not be able to attend a meeting.

Ms. Martinez said that requests for remote participation should be submitted to Dr. Johnson in advance of meetings, and a quorum is required in person. Dr. Johnson said he needs to clarify whether CCC members participating remotely are able to vote on motions.

Ms. Martinez expressed an interest in the City Manager recruiting and hiring process.

Responding to Ms. Martinez, Mr. Todd commented regarding a new equity tool being incorporated into the City's budget process.

Dr. Whitehead said that 2024 is the 10th anniversary of the creation of the Diversity Advantage Plan, which will be updated over the coming months. She said staff is excited about conducting robust community outreach and hearing from all of the voices. She thanked the CCC Team for their work with the community dialogues.

Mr. Mercado said a community forum will be held on October 30 to discuss the Diversity Advantage Plan update process.

Dr. Johnson said staff has been working with consultants and both internal and external colleagues and groups to facilitate feedback from the community to increase momentum for projects that are underway. He said the City Council is eager to hear the results of the open house. He said the Deputy City Managers have received periodic updates and are interested in operationalizing concepts and recommendations as appropriate.

Vice Chair Tiernan moved to approve the bylaws. Mr. Perezchica seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

7. WORK GROUP UPDATES

(a) Event Planning

Ms. Martinez provided an update regarding the November 16 event. The doors will open at 6:30 PM and people will be asked to register and will be provided with printed information. Attendees will rotate around the room to different stations representing different themes and topical areas, and everyone will be asked to vote on their top priorities. Food will be provided with multicultural options.

Mr. Mercado said they are hoping to have a kids activity room during the event. He said Dr. Whitehead will make opening remarks, followed by individual Council members. The session will end at 9:30 p.m. BDAN members have volunteered to help with the event. Twelve topics will be presented by individual facilitators as participants rotate around the room.

Mr. Mercado noted the need for additional volunteers for the November 16 open house.

Ms. Martinez encouraged CCC members to volunteer and to bring one or two others to help as well.

(b) Strategic Planning

Ms. Martinez said this work group has not yet met and will begin working after the November 16 event. She thanked everyone who volunteered for the group.

(c) Community Dialogue Ideas

Ms. Martinez led a brainstorming session regarding the themes and ideas raised during the numerous community dialogues including affordable housing, transportation, inclusive and representative government, access to human services, economic inclusion, investment in community partnerships, and Board and Commission appointments.

Ms. Tiernan highlighted some of the issues raised under affordable housing including workforce housing, affordable home ownership, mandatory inclusionary zoning, and zoning to allow duplexes and accessory dwelling units (ADUs).

Mr. Lauinger suggested a briefing for the facilitators regarding key terms and acronyms before the November 16 meeting.

Ms. Martinez noted plans to email background information and what to expect of the November 16 meeting to people who register for the event. Dr. Johnson said they are trying to avoid too much technical/government terminology in public communications and education materials.

Dr. Johnson noted that some of the ideas on the brainstorming board might be the subject of initiatives already planned or underway by the City.

Ms. Martinez recalled concerns expressed during the community dialogues about landlord-tenant relations. Mr. Lauinger suggested adding renter protections as a topic under the affordable housing category.

Mr. Mercado commented on the New Holly neighborhood in Seattle and suggested it could be studied as a model for affordable housing in Bellevue. Dr. Johnson encouraged the group to provide additional examples of successful models and programs in other cities or countries.

Ms. Tiernan moved to the category of inclusive, accessible and representative government.

Ms. Martinez noted a suggestion to combine this theme with equitable justice and to highlight the role of Police and Fire services. She said the related issues discussed during the community dialogues included working with BIPOC communities, community trust building, expanding community liaison program, equitable pay for City employees, reducing barriers to specific jobs, Police and Fire personnel reflecting the diversity of the community, and diverse equitable civic engagement for all.

Ms. Uppala commented on renter protections and asked whether anyone raised the issue of landlord support as well. She said she was familiar with a few landlords who would like to help out renters but also need to cover the costs of keeping their rental properties when rent is not

paid. Ms. Martinez confirmed that this is an issue in the community. However, she noted that concerns were not raised on that topic during the community dialogues.

Ms. Martinez noted the topic area regarding community justice navigators.

Moving to economic inclusion, Ms. Tiernan said the overwhelming majority of people who work in Bellevue do not live in Bellevue. Topics raised under this category include creating inclusive spaces, small business support/navigators and farmers/artisan markets.

Ms. Martinez recalled suggestions for a night market, especially during the winter, to support small businesses and provide a community gathering space and event.

Ms. Tiernan moved to the investment in community partnerships category, which includes increasing capacity building, affordable rents for non-profit organizations, funding for nonprofits and strengthening relationships with the Bellevue School District.

Ms. Martinez said she hears comments from families who say they cannot afford to live in Bellevue but would like to due to the excellent schools.

Ms. Martinez moved to the topical area of Boards and Commissions. The issues and ideas reflected in input from the community dialogues included barriers to getting involved, transparency of selection process, diversity of representation, efforts to pursue equity in membership, and whether stipend and/or meal is provided to those who serve on Boards and Commissions.

Dr. Johnson said there have been concerns about barriers for individuals who would like to run for the City Council including lower incomes, lack of child care options/affordability and other factors.

Ms. Tiernan noted the access to human services category and the topics of rental assistance and community navigators. She said Bellevue Essentials graduates have been identified as good candidates for community navigators. She said there are currently community navigators at the Mini City Hall at Crossroads shopping center and there is an interest in expanding to other locations.

Ms. Tiernan said the two main issues raised related to transportation were expanding service coverage throughout Bellevue and increasing multimodal travel options.

Ms. Tiernan moved to the topic area of community events and spaces. She said there was discussion during the community dialogues about the lack of art throughout all areas of Bellevue, the need for more culturally responsive events, placing community resource navigators at all community centers, community gardens in diverse neighborhoods, drop-in youth centers and other ideas.

Ms. Uppala commented on the need for more community spaces for meetings and events and asked whether that issue was raised during the community dialogues.

Dr. Johnson said this connects to the cross-cultural programming work. There have been two public sessions so far with a total of approximately 200 attendees.

Ms. Martinez said there were suggestions during the community dialogues about duplicating the experience of Crossroads shopping center in terms of gathering spaces and community events.

Mr. Lauinger said they frequently heard comments from people who said they did not feel like they belong in Bellevue.

Ms. Tiernan suggested that the concept of belonging could be included in an aspirational statement by the CCC as an over-arching theme for why the City is doing this work.

Dr. Johnson said DEI staff would be meeting that week to discuss the concept of belonging. He said Dr. Whitehead is leading that work, which includes the ideas of being able to live where you work and creating places to be in community with others. Dr. Johnson commented that all of the themes and topics identified through the community dialogues essentially relate to a sense of belonging in a community.

Ms. Martinez acknowledged that the issues and topics depicted on the board do not capture all of the comments from the community dialogues.

Dr. Johnson said all of the input will be saved to be addressed going forward. He noted that BDAN is working on developing recommendations for the city manager as well. He said the CCC Team and BDAN can share their community input and coordinate on topics and initiatives where it makes sense.

8. NEXT STEPS

Ms. Martinez noted there was only approximately two and a half weeks until the November 16 event and commented on the tasks involved in preparation for that event. She said everyone's help will be needed. She thanked Mr. Barr for his guidance and expertise throughout the community dialogue process.

Mr. Barr noted that his time with the CCC Team was nearing the end. Referring to the board of themes and topics, he encouraged using language that the public will understand in terms of how the issues affect their lives. He suggested avoiding jargon and acronyms as much as possible.

Mr. Yuen moved to continue moving forward with the themes discussed tonight for soliciting community feedback on November 16. Mr. Leiva-Rodriguez seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Ms. Martinez thanked everyone for the discussion and ongoing work.

Dr. Johnson said change is coming in the new year with new City leadership and two new Councilmembers coming on board. He emphasized the importance of the participation of every

CCC member and encouraged everyone to share suggestions with him about how we can make the CCC Team to be successful. He said the November 16 open house is a critical event for sharing all of the community dialogue input and gathering additional feedback from as many people as possible.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

/kaw