

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

November 14, 2023  
5:30 p.m.

City Hall  
Conference Room 1E-120

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

**ABSENT:** Ryan Qualls  
Lalita Uppala

**STAFF:** Dr. Marcus Johnson, Diversity, Inclusion and Outreach  
Administrator, City Manager's Office  
Sara Boyle, Equity Coordinator (CMO) (Remote)  
Erik Mercado, Equity Coordinator (CMO)  
Brooke Brod, Community Development Department (Remote)

**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 5:39 p.m. by Chair Martinez.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Attendees are listed above.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Perezchica moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Yuen seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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

**5. CHAIR'S COMMENTS**

Ms. Martinez commented on ongoing planning for the community event to be held on November 16.

**6. STAFF UPDATES**

(a) CCC Messaging

Dr. Johnson said another round of messaging went out from communications staff to reach out for participation in Thursday's community meeting to discuss the results of the community dialogues held over the summer. Approximately 65 people have registered to date.

(b) CCC Bylaw Update

Dr. Johnson encouraged everyone to attend the meeting on November 16. He noted that he sent out information regarding different volunteer roles that need to be filled for the event. He said the final presentation of the community dialogue information to the public and solicitation for feedback is a critical foundation for the CCC's upcoming work to develop policy recommendations.

Dr. Johnson said work is underway to update the Diversity Advantage Plan.

Ms. Martinez said CCC members are encouraged to attend regular meetings in person as much as possible.

Yvonne Adagala, a member of the Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network (BDAN), asked how they can support the CCC Team's work.

Ms. Martinez concurred that BDAN and the CCC Team should coordinate in their development of policy recommendations.

Mr. Lauinger suggested a joint meeting of the CCC Team and BDAN.

**7. WORK GROUP UPDATES**

(a) Event Planning

Ms. Martinez noted the need for some decisions and last-minute planning for Thursday evening.

Mr. Mercado said food has been ordered and three types of cuisine will be offered. Mr. Lauinger offered to help him pick up the food.

Mr. Mercado said he has prepared the ballots to be used for the public to vote on their top three priorities. He said the theme of the event is Belonging in Bellevue. He noted the tasks he would need help with to set up for the event.

Mr. Lauinger said he invited Danny Westneat, the reporter from The Seattle Times, because he has taken an interest in Bellevue in recent articles.

The committee talked about inviting one of the City's Public Information Officers (PIO) to the event.

Mr. Lauinger said he invited a reporter from the Northwest Asian Weekly as well.

Ms. Brod said the Community Development Department had supplies to use for serving the food and carts for moving food and supplies to the event space.

Mr. Mercado reviewed the schedule and list of speakers for Thursday night's event.

Mr. Barr led a discussion about whether to have an open house format for the event, with presenters at each topic/theme station, or a museum style event in which presenters walk groups through a tour of all of the priority/theme boards.

Ms. Martinez presented the designs for the boards to be used at Thursday's event, noting that Ms. Tiernan is the artist.

Ms. Martinez highlighted the theme Thriving Business for All and said the presenter at each station/board will provide an overview of the current situation in Bellevue related to the theme or topic (e.g., problems, barriers, needs and ideas) and the input and feedback from the community dialogues.

Responding to Ms. Adagala, Ms. Martinez said a number of City Councilmembers are expected to attend Thursday night's community meeting. Dr. Johnson commented on the City's extensive communications efforts through a number of methods.

Ms. Martinez recalled that this overall initiative was initially set up to extend through 2023. She asked whether committee members were committed to another three years if the work is continued. She asked whether the CCC Team should become a more official board or commission. Mr. Lauinger said that would be a good topic to discuss during the joint BDAN/CCC meeting.

Returning to the logistics of Thursday night's community meeting, Mr. Mercado suggested that each theme/topic station have its own facilitator, with Mr. Barr and Dr. Johnson assuring that people are rotating through the stations.

Chair Martinez invited additional comments regarding the museum style or gallery walk/open house format for the meeting.

Mr. Leiva-Rodriguez spoke in favor of the gallery walk format, especially to accommodate families with children. However, he noted that activities for kids will be provided that evening.

Mr. Yuen concurred. However, he noted that the circulation of people through the room could be slowed if a group is asking a lot of questions.

Ms. Martinez concurred with concerns about the flow of people through the room.

Mr. Barr suggested a time limit for each group at each station. He said the wrangler's job is to remind the facilitators and the public to keep circulating.

Ms. Tiernan suggested providing handouts in multiple languages at each station covering at least basic information for the participants. Ms. Martinez said there was not enough time to have the information translated into multiple languages at this point. She said an overview will be provided at the beginning of the evening.

Mr. Perezchica said he attended a similar event, which provided written information at each station for the public. Facilitators were available, however, to answer questions. He noted that individuals tend to go to the stations addressing the theme or topics of most interest to them.

Ms. Martinez said she would look into creating written information to the extent possible given the short timeline before the event on Thursday night. The committee discussed individuals who speak different languages who would be available Thursday night.

Mr. Lauinger spoke in favor of the gallery walk/open house approach with a facilitator at each station.

Ms. Martinez said she would get the script to everyone by the end of the following day. She said she would assign alternate facilitators for each station in case of an emergency.

Mr. Barr encouraged everyone to come early to rehearse briefly for the meeting.

Ms. Martinez noted the topic/priority assignments for the facilitators:

Dr. Nunez – Community Events

Mr. Yuen – Community Spaces

Mr. Leiva-Rodriguez – Transportation

Ms. Gadde – Inclusive, Representative Government

Mr. Lauinger – Affordable Housing

Mr. Perezchica – Thriving Business For All

Chair Martinez/Vice Chair Tiernan – Will rotate between Access to Human Services and Investing in Community Partners. Ms. Mason will be available as a facilitator for those stations as well if needed.

Mr. Perezchica moved to approve the gallery walk/open house format for the November 16 community meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leiva-Rodriguez and carried unanimously.

Responding to Mr. Barr, Dr. Johnson said he is working on having staff available to take photos during the event. Mr. Barr emphasized the importance of photos to document the event for the public and the City Council.

Mr. Barr suggested that chairs and water should be available at the open house. He said to avoid getting into a debate with any of the participants and to send them to him, Ms. Martinez or Dr. Johnson if they are trying to argue with the facilitators who are presenting information.

(b) Strategic Planning

Dr. Johnson asked the committee members to be thinking about what this work should look like in the next phase. He suggested including recommendations for the longer term work of the CCC Team when the priorities and policy recommendations are presented to the Council.

Ms. Tiernan reflected on the committee's accomplishments over the past year.

Mr. Lauinger said the past year or so will likely be seen as a watershed moment for the City in terms of changing the organizational culture.

Ms. Martinez noted the committee's interest in producing long-term impacts for the community.

Ms. Boyle suggested going out to dinner together to celebrate the successes to date. Ms. Martinez said perhaps the committee should hold a retreat.

Mr. Barr strongly encouraged committee members to invite as many colleagues, neighbors and friends to the Thursday night event as possible.

Ms. Martinez congratulated and thanked Mr. Barr for his leadership and expertise.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

/kaw