

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

December 12, 2023
5:30 p.m.

Virtual Only
via Zoom

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

ABSENT: Ruhi Gadde
Kananu Mason

STAFF: Dr. Marcus Johnson, Diversity, Inclusion and Outreach
Administrator, City Manager’s Office

CONSULTANT: Joshua Barr

BDAN LIAISON: Jim Lauinger

MINUTES WRITER: Kelly Wilson, City Clerk’s Office

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m. by Chair Martinez.

2. ROLL CALL

Attendees are listed above.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Nunez moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Yuen and carried unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: None.

5. CHAIR'S COMMENTS: None.

6. STAFF UPDATES

Dr. Johnson noted that a number of staff members were ill. He commented on ongoing meetings with department staff regarding the CCC Team's efforts.

7. WORK GROUP UPDATES

Dr. Johnson encouraged everyone to be thinking about the future strategies for the CCC Team.

8. JOSHUA BARR: COMMUNITY DIALOGUES DEBRIEF

Mr. Barr said he would like to hear from everyone and what they thought of the dialogues.

Mr. Lauinger said he felt like the effort was successful and met the group's expectations.

Dr. Nunez said he was encouraged by the curiosity of the attendees. He said there were a lot of good questions and people seemed engaged and invested in the discussions.

Mr. Lauinger said he heard feedback from four library staff who were impressed with the program. He thanked Chair Martinez and Vice Chair Tiernan for their leadership and professionalism.

Ms. Martinez said the presenters/facilitators did a great job, especially given that they did not have much time to practice the script. She said the presentations were excellent. Mr. Barr agreed and said the committee should be proud of what they accomplished.

Mr. Leiva-Rodriguez said the discussions were productive and generated helpful feedback.

Dr. Nunez said he experienced some challenges from participants. However, he appreciated that things do not always go smoothly and that can generate authentic input.

Ms. Martinez said she was pleased to see many different types of people among the participants. She said everyone did a good job of facilitating and that dealing with the challenges made it even more rewarding.

Mr. Perezchica said he too was pleased to see participants from a broad range of backgrounds. He noted comments that people want different types of businesses in Bellevue and they want their voices to be heard.

Mr. Yuen said it was encouraging to see the community show up and to see the CCC Team come together through the community dialogues. He thanked Chair Martinez, Vice Chair Tiernan, Mr. Barr and Dr. Johnson for their efforts and for preparing the information to be presented during the dialogue sessions.

Ms. Haque said she enjoyed hearing about how it all went and she commended everyone for all of their hard work.

Ms. Martinez noted that affordable housing was identified as a top priority citywide. She complimented Mr. Lauinger for his knowledge and presentation. Mr. Lauinger cautioned there can be pushback from the development community when trying to encourage and/or require affordable housing.

Ms. Martinez noted that another top priority was community spaces that welcome, encourage and inspire belonging. Mr. Lauinger said he heard repeatedly that people feel like they do not belong, including at their jobs, on transit, out shopping and in other activities.

Ms. Martinez said she hopes that board and commission members will attend the City Council meeting when the CCC Team presents its findings and recommendations.

Mr. Lauinger noted his ongoing interest in a joint meeting of the CCC Team and BDAN.

Ms. Martinez said there was a three-way tie for the third top priority identified by the community: 1) getting where you need to go, 2) investing in agents of change and community partners, and 3) a helping hands community aid model.

Mr. Barr suggested focusing on priorities that the City can influence.

Referring to the priority of helping hands and investing in agents of change, Ms. Tiernan said she heard differing input about whether the City or nonprofit organizations and private entities should be more involved in those efforts.

Dr. Nunez said he hoped the City is supporting partners who are trying to be culturally sensitive to community needs.

Mr. Barr observed that the concept of helping hands likely focuses on the City having a more active role, while agents of change refers more to others who can expand the reach and impact across the community. Ms. Martinez said it is important to identify the gaps and where people are falling through the cracks.

Mr. Lauinger said a number of cities have passed renter protections but Bellevue has not.

Dr. Johnson said that choosing three top priorities does not mean other issues and priorities will be overlooked. He said the City is already working on multiple initiatives, and the CCC Team can coordinate with BDAN regarding priorities and recommendations as well.

Dr. Johnson said February is probably the best time for the CCC Team's presentation to the City Council. He said the City Attorney will be at the CCC Team's meeting in January. Ms. Martinez suggested late February for the presentation, noting that there is a lot of work to be done. However, she said much of the work can be done through smaller work groups.

Dr. Johnson said he would like all CCC Team members to be present for the Council presentation, if possible.

Dr. Johnson said the recommendations will come at a time when there are other major planning initiatives underway, including the Comprehensive Plan periodic update. He would like to see the CCC Team extended beyond these initial three years and noted that no other board or commission does what they are doing. He believes the CCC Team's work will have a long-term influence on the City's policies going forward.

The committee discussed the membership and roles of the two work groups: strategic planning and community dialogue recommendations.

Mr. Barr encouraged the CCC Team to research what the City is already doing and to speak about possibilities. He encouraged meeting with the City Manager before the Council presentation to let her know what to expect. He suggested that the committee's recommendations identify potential partners for pursuing the recommendations.

Mr. Lauinger suggested recommending mandated affordable housing for development projects.

Ms. Haque thanked Mr. Barr for his leadership and for providing the framework to guide this work. She said none of this could have happened without him.

Dr. Nunez said he appreciated Mr. Barr's guidance and patience with the group. He said he felt fortunate for the opportunity to work with Mr. Barr.

Mr. Lauinger said Mr. Barr was the most amazing and important person he met in 2023, and he enjoyed his friendship and mentoring.

Ms. Uppala thanked Mr. Barr for guiding her in getting her message across without getting so worked up about the issues.

Mr. Leiva-Rodriguez thanked Mr. Barr for his work with the committee and for his book recommendations.

Chair Martinez said Mr. Barr helped them all to grow and she will update him on the CCC Team's work in the future.

Mr. Barr thanked the committee for trusting him. He said he appreciated the opportunity to take something from an idea and to transform it into something tangible. He wished everyone the best going forward.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

/kaw