

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

December 28, 2023
5:30 p.m.

Virtual Only
via Zoom

ATTENDEES: Monik Martinez, Chair
Jeri Tiernan, Vice Chair
Ruhi Gadde
Joel Leiva-Rodriguez
Kananu Mason
Dr. Randy Nunez
Ricardo Perezchica
Ryan Qualls

ABSENT: Lalita Uppala
Royce Yuen

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

BDAN LIAISON: Jim Lauinger

MINUTES WRITER: Kelly Wilson, City Clerk's Office

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. by Chair Martinez.

2. ROLL CALL

Attendees are listed above.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Martinez suggested switching the order of agenda items 5 (Chair's Comments) and 6 (Staff Updates).

Vice Chair Tiernan moved to approve the agenda, as amended. The motion was seconded by Dr. Nunez and carried unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: None.

5. STAFF UPDATES

(a) COB Department Visits

Dr. Johnson said there will be two new City Councilmembers next year and the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be selected in January. The annual Council retreat is scheduled for the end of January and he hopes the CCC Team will be able to present to the Council in late February. He commented on a new budgeting equity tool the City is using for the 2024-2025 budget. He noted work by the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), including their racial equity tool that captures an overall approach to integrating racial equity into routine decision making. He said GARE's resources, training and speakers are available to staff.

Dr. Johnson noted staff's ongoing work to update the Diversity Advantage Plan. He anticipates greater community involvement in developing this first update to the plan.

6. CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Vice Chair Tiernan said she would like to see more involvement with the boards and commissions.

Mr. Lauinger said he will start attending Planning Commission meetings to provide updates to the CCC Team. Chair Martinez and Mr. Leiva-Rodriguez said they are following that commission as well. Mr. Leiva-Rodriguez said he was considering applying for a position on the Planning Commission.

Ms. Tiernan noted that Ms. Uppala attends some of the Human Services Commission's meetings.

Chair Martinez suggested liaisons to the Parks and Community Services Board, Transportation Commission and Youth Link Board as well.

Mr. Perezchica expressed an interest in following the Transportation Commission.

Ms. Mason said she would be interested in following the Parks and Community Services Board.

Ms. Tiernan said she and Ms. Martinez have been talking about how to gather input from the boards and commissions regarding who they hear from in the community and where more outreach would be beneficial.

Dr. Johnson said he will be meeting with City Clerk's Office staff about the boards and commissions and about how the CCC Team might interact with the boards and commissions to discuss community priorities and involvement. He said some of the boards and commissions have expressed an interest in receiving periodic updates from the CCC Team. He said perhaps the CCC Team could send a survey to the boards and commissions to solicit input about who they are hearing from and who they think are underrepresented.

Ms. Martinez said she regularly hears concerns about underrepresented communities. Dr. Johnson expressed support for trying to collaborate with the boards and commissions. He noted barriers for many people in terms of serving on boards and commissions due to the night meetings and other constraints. He said many people are not aware of the boards and commissions and the opportunities for public input.

Ms. Tiernan recalled the committee's previous discussion on December 12 regarding the top three priorities identified through the community dialogue process.

Mr. Lauinger suggested combining investing in agents of change and community partners with the helping hands community aid model. Ms. Tiernan agreed that they are interrelated. She noted feedback from the community that the City should offer more help for residents.

Following brief discussion, there was a general consensus to combine the two priorities.

Dr. Nunez said it would be good to explore what the City is already doing and how the CCC Team can align with those efforts. He said we know that affordable housing and transportation are top issues and questioned whether there are other strategic issues the City might be missing, especially related to communities of color.

Referring to the City Council Vision and Priorities, Mr. Lauinger suggested moving equity and diversity higher up in the list, while recognizing that economic development is important as well.

Mr. Leiva-Rodriguez said he heard a lot of comments about transportation. However, he acknowledged that King County Metro provides public transit. He observed that some of the other priorities are more directly related to the City's policies and operations. Mr. Perezchica concurred.

Dr. Johnson said the BellHop pilot program has been a success and people have expressed an interest in expanding that free service beyond the downtown. He said that is a good example of something the City is already doing but that could be enhanced.

Chair Martinez said it sounded like there was support for focusing on the following top three priorities: 1) affordable housing for generations to come, 2) community spaces that welcome, encourage and inspire belonging, and 3) investing in agents of change and community partners and implementing a helping hands community aid model. However, she acknowledged that getting where you need to go/transportation is a top community priority as well.

Vice Chair Tiernan moved to approve the top three priorities as summarized. Dr. Nunez seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Returning to City department meetings, Ms. Tiernan said they have met with staff from the Community Development Department. Dr. Johnson said they are exploring current City initiatives to inform the development of the CCC Team's recommendations. They also learned about local resources and things that other cities are doing. He said the Community Development

Department includes staff who focus on planning for housing and affordable housing. One topic is mandatory inclusionary housing to provide affordable housing. Dr. Johnson said there has been discussion about designating 60 percent area median income (AMI) as the threshold for affordable housing instead of 80 percent AMI. He noted the City of Seattle's efforts with the development community to produce housing in the Africatown neighborhood in Seattle's Central District.

Ms. Gadde suggested spreading awareness of the CCC Team and the City's other initiatives, including posting regular updates and information about how the community can get involved. Dr. Johnson said the CCC Team does have a web page. He said he would talk to communications staff in the City Manager's Office to explore potential tools. He noted that the City has specific rules regarding the use of social media.

Ms. Martinez concurred with providing more information on the CCC Team's web site, including perhaps posting videos of community discussions about race and equity.

7. WORK GROUP UPDATES

(a) Strategic Planning

Chair Martinez said that she and Vice Chair Tiernan have been working on developing a charter statement to reflect the CCC Team's intentions, vision and priorities. Dr. Johnson said the original document establishing the CCC Team could be a good starting place. He said the charter does not need to be too extensive.

Ms. Martinez wondered whether the boards and commissions have strategic plans. Dr. Johnson said he would look into that.

Ms. Martinez suggested that the strategic planning work group begin meeting now that the community dialogues have been concluded.

(b) Policy Recommendations

The committee discussed the membership of the policy recommendations work group.

Ms. Gadde said she would start attending the Youth Link Board meetings.

Mr. Lauinger expressed an interest in the strategic planning work group.

Mr. Qualls expressed an interest in the policy recommendations group.

Chair Martinez said there will be other work groups throughout the year. She said the groups should avoid having a quorum of the CCC Team. Dr. Johnson advised everyone to avoid serial meetings as well. He said the two work groups should not share their discussions except in a full CCC Team meeting. He said he and Mr. Lauinger can move between the two groups since they are not committee members.

8. NEXT STEPS

Chair Martinez said the next steps are to move forward with the work groups and for CCC Team members to begin attending board and commission meetings. She encouraged everyone to attend the January 9 meeting in person if possible.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

/kaw