

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

February 13, 2024
5:30 p.m

Conference Room 1E-110
Bellevue City Hall

ATTENDEES: Monik Martinez, Chair
Jeri Tiernan, Vice Chair (Remote)
Dr. Randy Nunez (Remote)
Ricardo Perezchica
Ryan Qualls (Remote)
Lalita Uppala (Remote)
Royce Yuen

ABSENT: Ruhi Gadde
Joel Leiva-Rodriguez
Kananu Mason

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

BDAN LIAISON: Jim Lauinger

MINUTES WRITER: Kelly Wilson, City Clerk’s Office

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 p.m. by Chair Martinez.

2. ROLL CALL

Attendees are listed above.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Perezchica moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tiernan and carried unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: None.

5. STAFF UPDATES

(a) Human Resources

Dr. Johnson said Human Resources staff would not be able to join the meeting.

(b) DAT Project Updates

Dr. Johnson said a budget equity tool was launched last week for department staff to use in developing their budget proposals. He said they conducted testing of the tool with some staff and heard overall positive feedback.

Dr. Johnson said the Cross Cultural Center Without Walls initiative has launched and organizations are invited to apply for grants for cross cultural programming. He noted that Sara Boyle has been leading this effort.

Dr. Johnson complimented Mr. Mercado for his planning and coordination of Black History Month events. Dr. Johnson noted an art exhibit of Black artists currently in City Hall and thanked Dr. Linda Whitehead for her involvement with events.

Dr. Johnson said the work to update the Diversity Advantage Plan is ongoing and reflects in part the CCC Team's work with the community dialogues.

Mr. Mercado said there will be a Lunar New Year staff event on February 14 featuring a dragon dance. In honor of the Day of Remembrance recognizing the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, the City will host "Within the Silence," presented by Living Voices at City Hall on February 22, 6:00 p.m. A performance will be held earlier in the day for City employees.

Mr. Mercado said the equity atlas is in phase one and undergoing testing with staff members who collect and use data in their work. He noted that the data covers a broad range of factors including race, income, family size, health and City infrastructure and programming throughout Bellevue.

Dr. Johnson said staff has been working to build relationships with regional Tribes and to consider the issues of land acknowledgment, language and cultural preservation, impacts of the opioid crisis and opportunities for cultural events.

Dr. Johnson said he and Dr. Whitehead will meet with Bellevue Police Department leadership in March to discuss mandatory training for police officers. He said he met with a consultant who has been working with the Seattle Police Department to provide training that goes deeper than typical sensitivity training.

Dr. Johnson said human services staff in the Parks and Community Services Department are interested in soliciting feedback from BDAN and the CCC Team as part of their strategic planning and review of the human services grant program.

Ms. Martinez said the Human Services Commission is interested in recruiting a member of BDAN or the CCC Team to help review grant applications for the upcoming funding cycle. She said this is a great opportunity but it does involve a significant time commitment. She said the application states that the person would need to read approximately 50 applications of five pages each and meet with the commission to provide feedback. The application deadline is February 23.

Dr. Johnson noted ongoing conversations with City Clerk's Office staff about the equitable selection of Board and Commission members.

Responding to Ms. Martinez, Dr. Johnson said he has not heard an update regarding the City Manager search and recruitment.

Ms. Uppala said she met with Acting City Manager Diane Carlson a while back and raised the issue of using the City Hall Concourse for a Sunday market for small businesses.

Ms. Martinez noted she learned that economic development/Startup425 program staff has been talking about the need for affordable small business space. She endorsed the idea of hosting a market at City Hall.

Dr. Johnson noted that the market would most likely need to be on Saturday instead of Sunday in City Hall due to staffing needs. Mr. Chan said the concept fits well within the work to update the Diversity Advantage Plan. He suggested pursuing funding to staff the market if held in a City facility.

Ms. Uppala noted her interest in being involved in initiating the market.

6. CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Ms. Martinez introduced discussion regarding the CCC Team's preparation of recommendations resulting from the community dialogues to be presented to the City Council.

Dr. Johnson estimated the process will require at least 2-3 months. He said staff will then need time to integrate recommendations into budget proposals if directed by the Council.

Ms. Martinez expressed concern about the ability to develop and research recommendations within the budget timeline.

Mr. Lauinger noted that the community dialogues generated a great deal of data.

Responding to Mr. Lauinger, Dr. Johnson briefly reviewed the steps toward getting onto a Council meeting agenda. Mr. Chan said he had some capacity to assist with the work. Ms. Martinez said that much of the work can be addressed through the CCC work groups.

Dr Johnson said the CCC Team can also use research regarding practices in other cities to inform the recommendations and to document results in other communities.

Responding to Mr. Yuen, Ms. Martinez confirmed that opposition is to be expected, at least to some recommendations, and it would be good to have people at the Council meeting to tell their stories and express support. Ms. Martinez suggested it would be good to be able to complete the draft recommendations by mid-March.

Dr. Johnson recalled the committee's work with Joshua Barr and highlighted the project goals and timeline, which originally anticipated the presentation of recommendations to the Council in late March or April.

Ms. Martinez suggested talking about the issues and subject areas identified for policy recommendations. She said she, Ms. Tiernan and Dr. Johnson met to discuss the three topical areas: 1) affordable housing for generations to come, 2) community spaces and sense of belonging, and 3) helping hands and investing in agents of change.

Ms. Martinez said one of the community requests was mandatory inclusionary affordable housing zoning, government employee housing, amending zoning ordinances regarding accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and other housing types, developing housing rental codes, and creating pathways to home ownership. She noted that opposition is likely from developers related to mandatory inclusionary affordable housing. She said they discussed funding to implement and enforce the rental code.

Ms. Martinez said state legislative HB 1590 approved a sales tax for cities to use for certain types of affordable housing, supportive housing and related social services. She said they also talked about reparations for past inequities.

Dr. Johnson suggested focusing on issues and priorities that align with existing and emerging City initiatives and programs.

Mr. Lauinger offered to start working immediately on recommendations. He said there was an excellent February 9, 2024, editorial in The Seattle Times regarding renter protections.

7. WORK GROUP UPDATES

- (a) Strategic Planning: No report.
- (b) Community Dialogue Recommendations: No report.

The committee members discussed how to structure their work group and full committee meetings to develop the recommendations.

8. NEXT STEPS

Chair Martinez announced that 4 Tomorrow, for which she is executive director, was selected by the City to operate the safe parking program on 116th Avenue NE. Residents will have access to the day center and other services.

Mr. Lauinger encouraged everyone to visit the new Plymouth Housing facility in the Eastgate area and noted that he was president of the Real Change newspaper for eight years.

9. CLOSING

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

/kaw