CITY OF BELLEVUE BELLEVUE DIVERSITY ADVISORY NETWORK (BDAN)

MEETING NOTES

August 28, 2018

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:05 p.m. Bellevue City Hall Room (1E-112)

ROLL CALL, PRESENT: Anthony Austin, Haruka Kojima, Jennifer Karls, Eloisa Tran, Chinar Bopshetty, Jingdong Yu, Aleksandra Poseukova, Margie Ye, Justin Daigneault, Mohamed Bakr, Tom Brewer

BDAN MEMBERS ABSENT: Alaric Bien, Aisha Kabani, Maria Batayola

STAFF/OTHERS PRESENT: Mark Manuel, Five members of the Neighborhood Area Planning group

NOTETAKER: Tom Brewer (Interim Secretary) Notes rather than official minutes.

FACILITATOR: Anthony Austin

NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING APPROVED: Notes of July 24, 2018 (not available)

AGENDA FOR MEETING ADOPTED: As prepared by the Chairman

PREPARATION FOR ADVISORY SESSION:

Jenifer Karls reviewed our purpose to “pilot” and advisory process with a COB work group. As we had agreed that we would request prior information regarding the groups and subjects under consideration so that we can prepare appropriately for the meetings, we acknowledged having received some documentation regarding the Neighborhood Area Planning group and their inquiry of BDAN. We had discussion about our process for listening to and then responding to them.

COB NEIGHBORHOOD AREA PLANNING GROUP:

Five members of the Neighborhood Area Planning group (city staff) were welcomed into the meeting and self-introductions were made by everyone in the room. Each person offered their name, title/role and some reference to their connection to the community.

City staff presented in general the city’s comprehensive plan and their effort to involve the Bellevue citizenry in the city’s planning processes. Bellevue’s rapid growth and dramatically changing demographics requires city staff to engage in meaningful outreach and communication. Their decision had been to approach citizens neighborhood by neighborhood over a multi-year series of Neighborhood Area Planning meetings. They came to BDAN seeking input on how to strategically engage the diverse populations of our community in the Neighborhood Area Planning meetings and follow-up processes. They asked for input on communication and engagement with the overall community.

BDAN members offered many suggestions regarding outreach and engagement with the diverse community, such as:

* Interface with the Bellevue School District which serves a broadly diverse student population and has a treasure of data on area family demographics. Local school Action Teams are people with a grass roots understanding of neighborhoods.
* King County Libraries are successful in reaching divers communities – partner with them.
* Bellevue College is a gathering place for a youthful, diverse and multi-cultural population with eyes on the future.
* Ethnic and language affinity groups exist in the non-profit and commercial sectors (i.e. social organizations, specialty stores and restaurants) – reach out to them.
* Many large companies have Diversity and Intercultural offices as part of their Human Resources Department.
* And more…

Several BDAN members offered their services to assist city staff in making connections with diverse community groups. The work of Neighborhood Area Planning will be ongoing for the next few years so BDAN may be a continuing resource of information, communication and engagement for this effort.

DEBRIEF OF ADVISORY PROCESS:

Upon concluding the meeting with the city staff BDAN debriefed the experience and agreed that it was a positive engagement with the COB working group. We anticipate similar opportunities in the future.

Mark Manuel reviewed the BDAN Outreach and Engagement Advisory Model with its six phases of process (separate document). BDAN members expressed appreciation for the graphic.

Jennifer Karls briefly introduced ARCH and explained that reference materials will be distributed to BDAN in anticipation of our next opportunity to offer Advisory consultation.

UPDATE ON BDAN RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENTS:

Mark Manuel reported that the numerous applications have been reviewed by the Nominating Committee and forwarded to the City Manager. Appointments are forthcoming and will be announced soon. New members of BDAN will be welcomed into the BDAN Retreat next month.

APPRECIATION FOR MARK MANUEL:

BDAN members enthusiastically expressed their appreciation for Mark Manuel and wished him the very best in his “retirement.”

BDAN RETREAT UPDATE:

The retreat will be at Mercer Slough Nature Park on September 15th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Our new members will be welcomed at the retreat.

Due to the retreat and other pressing matters BDAN will not host an event for Welcoming Week, this year.

BDAN EVALUATIONS:

City staff and BDAN Leaders are developing a survey to gather evaluative feedback from BDAN members. Expect to receive this via Survey Monkey. PLEASE RESPOND.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

* Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Conference @ Bellevue College, September 29th 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
* Welcoming Week on the Eastside, September 13-22. See ERIC website for details of multiple events. <https://ericmembers.org>
* During October & November we will establish BDAN leadership for the New Year.
* January 2019 – BDAN will be delivering advisory services.

 MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:12 p.m.