CITY OF BELLEVUE BELLEVUE DIVERSITY ADVISORY NETWORK (BDAN) MEETING NOTES

November 27, 2018

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:09 p.m. Bellevue City Hall Room (1E-112)

ROLLCALL, PRESENT: Anthony Austin, Haruka Kojima, Jennifer Karls, Eloisa Tran, Chinar Bopshetty, Justin Daigneault, Mohamed Bakr, Tom Brewer, Aisha Kabani, Angela de la Hoz, Michael Carr, Liena Ugarova, Seema Bahl, Sapan Parekh, Guang-an Wu, Quiana Ross, Nahyeli Mendivil

BDAN MEMBERS ABSENT: Jingdong Yu, Aleksandra Poseukova, Margie Ye, Adnan Siddiquie

OTHERS PRESENT: Representatives of ARCH: Arthur Sullivan, Raquel Rodriguez

FACILITATOR: Chairman Anthony Austin

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

Chairman Austin asked for a motion to suspend Robert’s Rules of Order for the early part of this meeting in order to facilitate the advisory session with ARCH informally. Motion made by Aisha Kabani, 2nd by Tom Brewer, passed unanimously.

PREPARATION FOR ADVISORY SESSION:

Jenifer Karls, spokesperson for the Culturally Responsive Government subcommittee (CRG), identified the other members of the committee: J.D. Yu, Alaric Bien, Eloisa Tran, and Chinar Bopshetty. Together, they have prepared “A Regional Coalition for Housing” (ARCH) for this advisory session and distributed to BDAN members documents describing ARCH and its work on the Eastside. Chairman Austin commended the CRG committee for their work in anticipation of this advisory session with ARCH.

BDAN members briefly discussed what comments and questions would be appropriate during the session and recalled that we were primarily there to listen to the representatives from ARCH and respond to their inquiries of us.

ADVISORY SESSION: ARCH Executive Director, Arthur Sullivan and Administrator, Raquel Rodriguez were welcomed into the meeting and introduced themselves. Chairman Austin requested all BDAN members to briefly state their name describe their connection to the community.

Arthur Sullivan spent a few minutes defining and describing the work of ARCH, its inception and history as a regional coalition. He supplied a high-level description of the housing needs on the Eastside and the variety of ways they are addressed by King County, Eastside municipalities and private developers. Two documents with details supporting his presentation were distributed and briefly explained. ARCH is not a provider of work-force and affordable housing but a clearing house of information that describes the breadth of housing alternatives available, and is able to direct clients to the resources appropriate for their particular needs.

Raquel Rodriguez explained the process and procedures that transpire when a client contacts ARCH with a request for assistance with housing. People come to ARCH through the www.211.org directory and referral from social service agencies.

Arthur and Raquel then posed these questions to BDAN members:

1. What can ARCH do to be more visible to the diverse population on the Eastside?
2. How can ARCH connect with the ethnically, and culturally diverse communities now comprising a majority of Eastside residents.
3. What will get the message about ARCH through to the people who have the deepest needs yet are for various reasons deprived of knowledge about ARCH’s services?

BDAN members who offered well considered commentary in reply to the questions were:

Guang-an Wu (GW) Alaric Bien Seema Bahl

Quiana Ross Sapan Parekh

The BDAN members made many suggestions regarding outreach and engagement within their diverse communities, such as:

* Place ARCH information in strategic places where people come seeking information. For example Student Services Counter at Bellevue College, COB Service Desk, Bellevue Mini City Hall in Crossroads Mall, King Co. Libraries, etc.
* Provide basic training on referral to ARCH for “front desk” personnel at information centers such as Bellevue College, COB, King Co. Public Libraries, Eastgate Public Health etc.
* Interface with the Bellevue School District and Lake Washington School District which serve a broadly diverse student population and have a treasure of data on area family demographics.
* King County Libraries are successful in reaching diverse communities – partner with them.
* 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.
* And more…

Additionally, Bellevue’s Diversity Outreach & Engagement Administrator, BDAN, and a consultant had previously produced a multi-cultural map of Bellevue (through the Creative Edge program of Joshua Hiem) during the past year which will be available to ARCH.

A summary of all the information provided by BDAN members will be composed and made available via Google docs. Jennifer Karls will compile the posts and publish the content. Contact information for ARCH staff will be shared with BDAN members for follow-up communication.

DEBRIEF OF ADVISORY PROCESS:

After ARCH representatives were excused from the meeting, BDAN members reflected on the advisory session. In general, it was agreed that the session seemed a worthwhile investment of BDAN’s attention and time. Members agreed to provide detailed information and a synthesis of our input to ARCH as well as, contact information for further communication. Jennifer Karls volunteered to collate any written input from BDAN members and make that available to ARCH.

ROBERT’S RULES OF ORDER RESUMED:

Chairman Austin resumed Robert’s Rules of Order for the remainder of the meeting.

1ST ITEM OF BUSINESS: VOTE ON THE BDAN BY-LAWS:

After previous proposals and delays, BDAN’s ByLaws (DRAFT) was again put forward for ratification. A motion, by Aisha Kabani and seconded by Chinar Bopshetty, to ratify the Bylaws as presented to the general body. Following a brief discussion, the Chair called for a vote, and those in favor ratified the Bylaws, unanimously.

BDAN OFFICERS:

Chairman Austin appealed for those who would respond to the opportunity to fill BDAN leadership roles in the coming term (2019 – 2020). Any voting member, who is willing to serve in any of these roles, should communicate their availability to the Chairman, a.s.a.p. The positions to be filled are as follows:

1. Chairperson
2. Vice Chairperson
3. Secretary

BDAN SURVEY:

Chairman Austin reported that he had received 18 responses to the BDAN survey that was recently circulated among BDAN members. A report on the survey will be available before the January 2019 meeting.

BDAN HOLIDAY PARTY:

In lieu of the regular monthly meeting in December, BDAN will meet for a Holiday Party Potluck on December 18th from 6:00 to 8:00 PM, at a location (TBD).

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Chairman Austin called for a motion to adjourn the meeting: it was moved by Quiana Ross and seconded by Michael Carr, so the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.