**City of Bellevue – Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network (BDAN)**

Tuesday, January 29, 2019 6:00PM City Hall Room 1E-112

**Meeting Notes**

Chairman, Anthony Austin called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

Roll was called and the following were present:

Jennifer Karls, Alaric Bien, Margie Ye, Mohamed Bakr, Justin

Daigneault, Aleksandra Poesukova, Aisha Kabani, Jingdong Yu (JD), Linda

Whitehead, Seema Bahl, Sapan Parekh, Quiana Ross, Nahyeli Mendavil, Angela De

La Hoz, Guang-an Wu (GW), Liena Ugarova, Adnan Siddiquie, Anthony Austin and

Tom Brewer.

City Staff present were: Yuriana Garcia Tellez, Diversity Outreach and Engagement Administrator and Gwen Rousseau, Associate Planner – Demographer.

Absent BDAN Members were: Haruka Kojima, Chinar Bopshetty, Elosia Tran, Maria Batayola and Michael Carr.

Motion to adopt the Meeting Agenda was made by Jennifer Karls; 2nd by GW. Motion passed unanimously.

There were no Meeting Notes (Minutes) taken in the December meeting since it was a Holiday Party.

Census 2020:

Gwen Rousseau presented an overview of plans for the 2020 Census. The US

Constitution mandates a census every 10 years and the date is set for April 1, 2020. Apportionment of representation in the House of Representatives as well as allocation and distribution of billions of Federal dollars for federally funded programs relies on census data. It is extremely important that the census be thorough and accurate. Gwen displayed numerous graphs depicting demographic data about Bellevue to illustrate what can be learned from census data. That 2020 is also a national election year and the current polarizations in our society are causes for concern about participation in the census. The US Census Bureau will employ the internet for online tabulation as well as door-to-door canvassing to accomplish the goal of counting every person residing in the United States on April 1, 2020. The Census Bureau is beginning now a nationwide campaign to promote participation in the 2020 census.

There is significant political controversy about the census questions, especially those regarding citizenship. For the first time since 1950, the U.S. Census Bureau is planning to ask everyone living in the United States whether they are citizens. This intention is being challenged the California Attorney General in Federal court on the grounds that it could cause many immigrants to skip the 2020 census out of fear their information could be used against them, even though it is illegal to share a person’s census responses with law enforcement or immigration agencies.

Former Governor Gary Locke will chair a community–led effort to ensure a complete, accurate Census count in King County. A meeting of leaders in Eastside cities will be on April 4th at Redmond City Hall, time TBD.

Following Gwen’s presentation a lively discussion ensued. Given our city’s motto “Bellevue Welcomes the world; our diversity is our strength” Bellevue has great interest in the matter of this decennial census.

Chairman Austin welcomed the recently hired Diversity Outreach and Engagement Administrator, Yuriana Garcia Tellez to BDAN. Yuriana offered a brief summary of her previous work and then facilitated an “Ice-breaker” activity. The entire group quickly divided into four sub groups and considered the question: What does “diversity” mean to you? After a few minutes of discussion in the sub groups one person from each group shared the group’s definition of “diversity” with the large group. The definitions had much in common yet brought out many nuances in the way “diversity” can be appreciated.

Chairman Austin shared the result of BDAN’s recent election of officers for the coming year: Alaric Bien, Chair Aisha Kabani, Vice Chair and

Quiana Ross, Secretary.

Vice Chair, Aisha Kabani reviewed the work of BDAN’s sub committees in the past year. The committees had begun as three: 1) Communications, 2) Outreach and Engagement, 3) Culturally Responsive Government.

As the year progressed the Communications Committee assimilated into the Outreach and Engagement Committee and the work of that committee was eclipsed by the work of the Cross-cultural Mapping and Study facilitated by a consultant. The Culturally Responsive Government Committee remained intact and facilitated BDAN’s advisory meetings with the city’s Neighborhood Area Planning Team and A Regional Coalition for Housing. After lively discussion about the scope and focus of BDAN’s work in 2019 it was determined that our officers and Yuriana will meet in executive session and give definition to our scope of work as “Advisors” to city staff and accountable to the City Manager’s Office.

BDAN’s next meeting – Tuesday, February 26th 6:00 – 8:00PM

Motion to adjourn by J.D. Yu and 2nd by Justin Daigneault. Unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09.