

City of Bellevue

Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 17, 2020	Virtual Meeting
6:00p.m.	Zoom

Membership:

Adnan Siddiqui	Diane Li	Lisa Weber	Becca Cole
Alaric Bien	Eloisa Tran	Margie Ye	Santiago Naranjo
Angela De La Hoz	Haruki Kojima,	Marta Trilles	Quiana Ross
Anthony Austin	Jennifer Karl	Mohamed Bakr Phil	Seema Bahl
Chris Lovings	Karia Wong	Peterson	Timea Soos

City Staff: Yuriana Garcia Tellez, Diversity Outreach and Engagement Administrator; Emily Chang, Diversity Outreach and Engagement Intern; Brad Miyake, City Manager.

Special Guests: Janice Zahn, City Council Member.

Recording secretary: Phil Peterson

I. Call to Order:

- A. Roll call of members: *Alaric called to order at 6:02p. Roll call was initiated at 6:03p.*
- B. Adoption of the Agenda: *Anthony moved, Lisa seconded, unanimously approved.*
- C. Adoption of the Minutes: *Quiana moved, Margie seconded, unanimously approved.*

II. Public Comment: Brad Miyake introduced the City Council Member, Janice Jahn, in attendance. He also shared his appreciation for those who attended last month’s meeting and provided feedback for OIR.

III. Gracious Space Activity by Yuriana.

BDAN members shared in one word or a short phrase how they felt about coming into today’s meeting. The purpose of this activity was to build greater community together as a network.

IV. Complete Streets Bellevue by Chris Randels

Chris is founder of a local community organization that advocates for sustainable transportation in the city. He shared the importance of targeted, conscientious actions to make our transportation system more sustainable and equitable through support of walking, biking, and transit infrastructure. Chris recommends that the city engages the diverse communities and local organizations in the Crossroad’s neighborhood to hear from the people and to advocate for changes that improve the transportation system. Email Chris at crandels@cs-bellevue.org for more information, including to receive a monthly newsletter.

V. Debrief of OIR by Yuriana Garcia

The Office of Independent Review Group is an independent police oversight and review consultant group. Their goal in last month's meeting was to receive feedback from BDAN members on the city's use of force policies. Currently there are stakeholders in the city, who are providing additional feedback. The next step is to review the report and then to present a final version to the City Council. A small group of BDAN members will be involved.

The following feedback was provided by BDAN members: (1) Offer a time to ask questions in addition to providing feedback, (2) Create a means for BDAN members to provide accountability that ensures the city will follow through on their response to the upcoming report, (3) Generate future feedback by engaging in local organizations, such as, the Muslim Community and Neighborhood Association, who is already organizing an annual safety forum, (4) Establish a civilian oversight commission, (5) Clarify that the purpose of the report is to change policy, and not to heal our community, (6) Consider how the format, and those involved in the listening sessions, may not represent new and diverse perspectives in the city, (7) Inform local citizens on the current policies that govern our police department, (8) Consult with BDAN members on new and improved ways (i.e. timing, schedule) to engage in the city so that we engage new and diverse people in the city.

VI. Committee Reports by Phil Peterson

Jennifer reported that the Culturally Responsive Government Committee is updating their work plan for this coming year and setting new goals that will continue their work from last year. The group consists of Jennifer, Angela, Seema, Timea, Becca, and Lisa.

Chris reported that the Communications and Community Engagement Committee identified their two primary goals. The first will be to identify better ways to communicate with schools, the police and organizations that address the housing needs in the city. Second, they are exploring ways to communicate with citizens during and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic so that all people know what services are available. The group consists of Sterling, Marta, Quiana, and Karia.

Margie reported that the Emerging Needs Committee identified their three areas of focus, including the police oversight commission, mental health resources, and the multicultural center. Yuriana explained that the purpose of this new committee is to set the agenda for quarterly BDAN meetings that Brad will attend. She wants this committee to empower BDAN to better discuss, provide advice and recommendations for the City Manager regarding both urgent and developing issues and/or needs in our city (with particular focus on diverse communities). The group consists of Diane, Haruka, Phil, Mohamed, Nahyeli, and Santiago.

Yuriana shared that a template for a work plan will be provided for each committee. Each committee is expected to complete a draft by the next meeting on January 26, 2021.

VII. Cross-cultural Feasibility Study by Yuriana Garcia

Yuriana shared key points relevant to a recent feasibility study by AECOM that evaluated the need for a multicultural center. AECOM interviewed over 40 stakeholders, including members of BDAN, to hear ways this would be used by and benefit our diverse communities in Bellevue. The report recommended a place that would bring people together, who are outside of their ethnic or cultural community. The goal is to grow our citizen's understanding of the values, customs, arts, culture, history, and heritage of people from other cultures. Yuriana plans to share more about this at the January BDAN meeting.

VIII. Nominations by Yuriana Garcia

Nominations were submitted by BDAN members to Yuriana by email. She will send out the ballot via email as well. The ballot is open from November 17 to December 1. An announcement is made in December.

IX. Announcements / Future Agendas by Phil Peterson

Yuriana announced that the Cultural Liaison Program was approved by the city.

Yuriana shared how the next meeting on December 15th is a holiday gathering from 6p to 8p to connect BDAN members together. During this gathering, BDAN members will be asked to share a bit about themselves by sharing about a dish they are eating or a favorite beverage they are drinking.

X. Closing of Session by Yuriana Garcia

- A. Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 26, 2021.
- B. Motion to Adjourn