

# City of Bellevue

## Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 28, 2020	Virtual Meeting
6:00p.m.	Zoom

**Members present (19):** Adnan Siddiquie, Aisha Kabani, Alaric Bien, Angela De La Hoz, Diane Li, Eloisa, Faizal Kassamali, Guang-an Wu (GW), Haruka Kojima, Jennifer Karls, Karia Wong, Nahyeli Mendivil, Liena Ugarova, Philip Peterson, Sarim Bhatti, Seema Bahl, Sapan Parekh, Mohamed Bakr.

**City Staff:** *Yuriana Garcia Tellez, Diversity Outreach and Engagement Administrator; Brad Miyake, City Manager for Bellevue.*

**Recording secretary:** *Phil Peterson*

**I. Call to Order:**

- A. Roll call: *Alaric called to order at 6:05p. Roll call was initiated at 6:06p.*
- B. Adoption of the Agenda: *GW moved, Liena seconded, unanimously approved.*
- C. Adoption of the Minutes: *GW moved, Aisha seconded, unanimously approved.* Yuriana shared a document with virtual meeting guidelines.

**II. Public Comment:** none

**III. City Manager Presentation - Brad Miyake**

*Brad shared about the impact of COVID-19 on the world, the city, and his personal life. The city has been trying to respond to the greatest needs, and with COVID-19 hitting the city very quickly, then this has been more difficult. There are huge needs on all fronts and the city is grateful for the partnerships they have with local non-profits to support the community.*

*A few examples regarding the city's response: The council declared an emergency immediately, which opened \$500,000 for the city to apply to the greatest needs in the community. Another area of focus are the businesses. The economic development group, "Start-up 425," has been helpful. "Business Impact Northwest" is collaborating with the city in multiple languages with business owners. "Safe Heaven" is working to address barriers for undocumented students in the schools. In the next couple months, Brad sees the need for greater collaboration with community partners for ongoing needs in the city.*

*Comments to Brad: GW and Adnan shared how Bellevue is cooperating well with the community. Adnan asked what impact this will have on the city. Brad shared how revenues are down 11% or 23 million dollars, so Brad is considering how to make up that difference. They do have a reserve to bridge the gap, but they rely on sales tax for funding and with all the retail being down it's an impact on the budget. Economists are assuming we are in a recession now, and that we will come out of this in 2021 or into 2022. This will be similar to 2008 in the short-term but will probably recover faster in comparison to 2008. What is difficult for COVID-19, is that there is no vaccine. The city is looking at how people come back to work when people can sit close to one another. Brad*

*believes that many who are staying home to work from home, that they will continue to do so. The conversation has been in reactive mode for the past few months making sure people are safe and businesses continue, and to help out the marginalized community members. The social distancing will have an impact but is hard to predict.*

*Regarding the social impact, the police department had an online forum with 200 people viewing on YouTube. A question was asked about the park closures, and Brad shared how they did close portions of the park because many people were not practicing social distancing. Park Rangers were out and saw so many people not practicing social distancing, so they also closed parking lots as well to reduce traffic to the parks with the intent to help protect our citizens.*

*A comment was shared about the city's anti-discrimination stance, and how positive it is to see the city taking a stand against discrimination. A comment was shared about the police department forum, and the greater attention towards guns. Brad shared how the people do not need to own a gun because the Chief of Police and his force exist to protect our citizens. There have been a larger number of people applying for gun permits, because numerous people are scared, and particularly those of Asian background. There were isolated reports of hate speech towards Asian people, which is why they created the form to bring awareness to the community.*

#### **IV. Community Needs – Alaric Bien**

*Members of the network each shared how they were impacted by COVID-19, and how they are working through their challenges as it relates to their personal, their relationships in the community, and in their professional lives. The comments below are focused on any concerns mentioned about the diverse cultural groups in our city.*

#### **V. Human services - Kristi Stangland**

*She provided data from a survey that was administered from March to August 2019, so the current crisis information is not included. Bellevue is a leader in Human Services to have accurate and comprehensive data with a voice from the city. This is used to guide the funding process. They gather data from 700 people through the phone, online, focus groups, and surveys.*

*Key themes are affordable housing, the living wage, homelessness, racial themes, behavior health, barriers to employment, access to transportation.*

*Comments: Adnan shared how this is great information. He continued to ask some questions on the statistical viability. This has been a challenge. The city partners with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party company to ensure a diversity of information. They have not yet done surveys through social media and they are interested. A comment was asked whether Kristi would share this information in the community. Kristi is willing to meet with people, as well as, to share the report by mail.*

*Visit the Human Services website for more information.*

## **VI. Committee Report Out, Alaric Bien**

- A. Outreach / Communications: *Sapan reported. There have been a lot of changes with the census. Most offices are currently closed until June 1 and looking at an October 31<sup>st</sup> deadline for response. The field work will begin mid-August. This is a good time to ramp things up. Bellevue's self-response is 63.5%, which is higher than average. The goal for the region is to get to 75% by mid-August.*
- B. Community Engagement: *Phil reported. The Committee met last week, discussed a proposal for bringing the 80+ faith communities together to work for the common good. If possible, they are working to present to BDAN on Tuesday, May 26th for feedback.*
- C. Culturally Responsive Gov: *No report.*
- D. Cultural Liaisons Program: *GW reported. They met last Monday and discussed drafting a proposal. They have a high level of material, and hopefully will have a proposal by the end of June.*

## **VII. Announcements /Future Agendas, Alaric Bien**

*No events to announce.*

*Phil is voted in to be the new Secretary for BDAN.*

## **VIII. Closing of Session, Alaric Bien**

- A. Next Meeting: *May 26*
- B. Motion to Adjourn: *Alaric called to adjourn at 8:02p.*