

**CITY OF BELLEVUE
CENTERING COMMUNITIES OF COLOR COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes**

May 9, 2023
5:30 p.m.

City Hall
Conference Room 1E-120

ATTENDEES: Amirah Haque, Chair
Monik Martinez, Vice Chair (Remote)
Kananu Mason
Ryan Qualls (Remote)
Jeri Tiernan
Royce Yuen

ABSENT: Dr. Randy Nunez

STAFF: Dr. Marcus Johnson, Diversity, Inclusion and Outreach
Administrator, City Manager's Office
Sara Boyle, Equity Coordinator, CMO

CONSULTANT: Joshua Barr

MINUTES WRITER: Kelly Wilson, City Clerk's Office

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Chair Haque.

2. ROLL CALL

Attendees identified themselves and are reflected above.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved by consensus.

4. STAFF UPDATES

Dr. Johnson said he met with staff and identified eight potential venues for the community dialogues. The best days based on the availability of facilities are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and staff is working to schedule specific dates. Mr. Barr encouraged scheduling the dialogues beginning immediately after the 4th of July if possible. Dr. Johnson said it might be necessary to conduct some of the dialogues at City Hall based on the availability of facilities.

Ms. Boyle said they are looking for other locations throughout the community as well including libraries, churches, nonprofit organizations and other venues.

Dr. Johnson said City email addresses will be provided to the new CCC committee members as soon as possible.

Responding to Vice Chair Martinez, Mr. Barr said each community dialogue session will need facilitators and note takers. He said it is not necessary for all CCC committee members to attend each session.

Dr. Johnson noted that if a quorum of the CCC committee is present, the meeting will require advanced public notice and the preparation of meeting minutes.

5. CCC RECRUITMENT

Dr. Johnson said staff is working to fill the vacancies on the committee before the first community dialogue is held.

Ms. Boyle suggested limiting the number of CCC committee members to three for each dialogue session. She said staff will be present as well.

Chair Haque asked committee members to submit the July and August dates they are not available, as well as the dates they might prefer.

6. DEBRIEF BUS TOUR

Chair Haque said that she, Ms. Mason and Dr. Nunez participated in the bus tour. She said they were able to talk with members of the Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network (BDAN) and with Mark Heilman, Neighborhood Outreach Manager, during the four-hour tour. Ms. Haque said the group spoke with a couple of residents on the tour as well.

7. COMMUNITY DIALOGUES WITH JOSHUA BARR: PHASE 2

(a) Scheduling Community Dialogues

Mr. Barr asked about plans for publicizing the CCC committee's work and the upcoming community dialogues.

Ms. Boyle said a communication would be released within the next few days about the overall activities of the City staff Diversity Advantage Team (DAT). The next step is to publish more specific information, including online, about the community dialogues and how to register to participate. Dr. Johnson said staff needs to clarify specific details about the different venues to help set up the registration process. Ms. Boyle encouraged committee members to identify additional potential meeting locations (e.g., schools, libraries, churches, nonprofit organizations) based on their community involvement.

Dr. Johnson said that public information is typically provided in the seven most popular languages spoken in Bellevue. He will work with communications staff to outline a strategy for community outreach and education.

Chair Haque concurred with the suggestion to use schools as locations for community dialogues.

Mr. Barr said each session should involve 16-30 people. He said the ideal is 20 people or less because it gives everyone a better chance to participate. However, he said he typically does not like to turn anyone away.

Responding to Mr. Yuen, Mr. Barr said the desired diversity among the dialogue participants applies not just to race and ethnicity but also to economic, professional, age and social status.

Responding to Ms. Haque, Mr. Barr said the dialogues can be targeted toward specific populations or open to all members of the public. He said the sessions he has led are typically open to everyone. He asked whether the committee would like to hold any of the sessions in a language other than English. If so, he noted it will be necessary to have facilitators and note takers who can speak and write the language.

Vice Chair Martinez noted that she speaks Spanish. She said the City has headsets that provide real-time translation between individuals. Ms. Mason speaks Spanish as well.

Ms. Boyle said staff will need to consult City policies regarding the use of official translators and best practices. Responding to Mr. Barr, she confirmed it is possible that the City can hire facilitators who speak languages other than English.

Mr. Barr asked whether the committee was interested in holding a Spanish-only community dialogue.

Ms. Boyle noted it would be easier to hold a Spanish-only session than to have multiple languages spoken but, most likely, staff will be able to accommodate whatever format is chosen.

At 6:25 p.m., Chair Haque declared a short break. The meeting resumed at 6:32 p.m.

(b) Group/Network Mapping and Identifying Gaps in the Community

Mr. Barr recalled that CCC committee members were asked to complete a networking map grid to reflect the groups and affiliations with which they identify and interact. Committee members commented briefly on their process and thoughts as they created their network maps.

Mr. Barr said the networking map exercise helps to identify the gaps or areas where we do not have relationships or activities. He noted that when he initially completed the exercise years ago, he realized he spent most of his time with Black men and lacked interactions with groups he might not have felt as comfortable with at the time.

Mr. Barr suggested that committee members list examples of the groups identified on their networking maps as potential sources for involvement in the community dialogues.

Chair Haque noted:

- Veterans of Color in Bellevue
- Bellevue School District Black Student Unions
- Eastside Youth Coalition
- Islamic Center of Eastside (Bellevue)
- Jubilee Reach
- Africans on the Eastside
- Student clubs: Bending the Arc and SOAR (Students Organized for Anti-Racism)
- Kevin Henry, former City employee who created the initial diversity program
- Representatives of the Samoan community
- Representatives of the Asian-American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community
- Representatives of the Latino youth community

Mr. Yuen noted the following groups and individuals:

- Congregations for the Homeless (CFH)
- The Sophia Way
- Jubilee Reach
- Bellevue Teen Center
- Crossroads Community Center (one of the most diverse neighborhoods in Bellevue)
- Bellevue Youth Theatre
- Pan-Asian church communities
- Local Hoops youth basketball program
- Bellevue YMCA
- John Su, Su Development
- James Wong, Entrepreneur and Realtor
- Restaurant and retail business owners

Ms. Tiernan listed the following groups/organizations:

- Bellevue Essentials
- Bellevue Police Department Advisory Committee
- Crossover Health
- Mox Boarding House (Restaurant, games and gathering place)
- Representative of international students
- Bahai Cultural Center and other representatives of the Bahai faith community
- Washington State Nurses Union

Ms. Mason listed the following:

- Overlake Hospital Medical Center
- Lake Hills neighborhood residents and business owners
- Kenyans on the Eastside

- Puesta del Sol Elementary School

Mr. Qualls listed the following groups and contacts:

- Bellevue College First Nations Club
- Angie Hinojos, Centro Cultural Mexicano
- Eastside Bahai Center
- University of Washington Bahai Club and History Museum
- Mark McConnell, representative of Native American community
- Chief Seattle Club
- United Indians of All Tribes Foundation
- El Centro de la Raza
- Duwamish Tribe
- Peoples Socialism and Liberation Group
- King County Equity Now
- Africatown Community Land Trust
- Protectors of the Salish Sea
- Sealaska Alaska Native Corporation

Ms. Martinez listed the following groups:

- Eastside Legal Assistance Program (ELAP)
- Indian American Community Services
- Eastside for All
- Futurewise
- Muslim Community Network Association (MCNA)
- Muslim Community Resource Center (MCRC)
- Essentials First organization
- Corporate partners (e.g., Amazon, Meta, Microsoft)
- Tenants/renters, including affordable housing tenants through Imagine Housing, Attain Housing and other organizations.
- City's Boards and Commissions
- 4 Tomorrow (Latino and youth organization)
- Spanish speakers and other immigrants from different regions
- Catholic Community Services
- BelRed Arts District planning group
- Small business owners (Latino)
- Nonprofit organizations

Responding to Mr. Barr, committee members identified additional populations including SE Asian/Indian, Pakistani and Black-American adults. Dr. Johnson noted the Right to Breathe community forums.

Ms. Mason asked about the intended focus for the CCC committee. Dr. Johnson said the original intent was to focus on Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities. However, that does not exclude allies of those communities. Dr. Johnson suggested the committee could discuss how broad they want their outreach to be.

Vice Chair Martinez said it is beneficial to have a diversity of perspectives to foster meaningful conversations.

Mr. Barr suggested developing a script to use when contacting organizations and individuals about the community dialogues.

Mr. Qualls suggested considering the Community Passageways organization, a youth felony diversion and prevention program.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Haque said the next meeting is scheduled for May 25 and the mock dialogue training will take place on May 21.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

/kaw