



Joint Commission on Racial Justice and Equity Steering Committee



MINUTES

Thursday, September 16, 2021

Meeting Started at 5:30pm

Virtual Meeting by Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84034605735?pwd=RWVXMUw2VE0rRIZPQjhjeGdvWm9PZz09>

Meeting ID: 840 3460 5735

Passcode: 296402

Members Present:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> xTimothy Bertschy, Co-Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> xMary Peterson, Co-Chair |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Andre Allen, City Council Liaison | <input type="checkbox"/> Micah Lavender |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Angela Bolden | <input type="checkbox"/> Chuck Mitchell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Charles Brown | <input type="checkbox"/> xMike Murphy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brandy Bryant, County Board Liaison | <input type="checkbox"/> xRasheedah Na'Allah |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mary Chapai | <input type="checkbox"/> xPam Orear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> xRobert Dunigan | <input type="checkbox"/> Abrain Robinson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Raeann Garza Whitby | <input type="checkbox"/> xJonathan Wright |
| <input type="checkbox"/> xAngela Green | <input type="checkbox"/> xBradley Wright-Hulett |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joshua Gunn | <input type="checkbox"/> xAngela Young |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Julia Issa-Ghantous | <input type="checkbox"/> Scott Sorrel, County Ex-Officio |
| <input type="checkbox"/> xJim Johnson | <input type="checkbox"/> Patrick Urich, City Ex-Officio |

Others Present:

None

1. Call to Order

- Co-chair Mary Peterson called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.

2. Approval of Minutes

- Approval of August 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes—Pam Orear moved to approve the August 19th meeting minutes. Jonathan Wright 2nd the motion. There were no questions, the minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Appointments

- None, at this time.

4. Informational Items and Reports

- Update on Subcommittees Co-Chairs meeting held on September 2, 2021
 - Tim Bertschy gave a brief overview of the meeting with the Subcommittee chairs held on September 2nd. He talked about the baseline that the Subcommittees have been asked to create, action plan and timeline, and role of the Steering Committee. (More details in the attached report)
- Update on Open Meetings Act (OMA) Training
 - The electronic OMA training is still not accessible on the Illinois Attorney General website. We will keep all parties updated on this matter.
- Update on Governmental Alliance on Racial Equity (GARE) Membership
 - Mary Peterson talked about the status of GARE membership. City of Peoria had a limited membership. Peoria County plans to renew and upgrade its membership soon. Mary and Tim will keep the Steering Committee and Subcommittee Co-chairs updated on this matter

5. Discussion

- Discussion on committee assignments on Equity work in other communities
Each work group should write up findings of their assignments.
 - Governmental Alliance on Racial Equity (GARE)
Na'Allah Rasheedah and Angela Young
They looked at the website which has several resources and tool kits listed. They hope to obtain more information when the Peoria County GARE membership is renewed and upgraded.
 - Saint Paul, MN
Pam Orear and Charles Brown
Pam Orear sent several emails to contacts listed and had only one response thus far. Equity efforts are focused internally within the governmental departments. Pam hopes to hear from other contacts. She will put together a written report on the findings.
 - Multnomah County, OR
Bradley Wright-Hulett and Angela Green
Portland is the largest city in this County. The website was hard to read and not a lot of information.
 - Madison, WI
Mike Murphy and Mary Chapa
Madison is not very diverse community. The impetus for this work was to understand the link between health and race (more specifically diabetes).
- Recommendations/Suggestions for Subcommittees research for baseline
 - Research Best Practices in other communities
 - Construct a framework for Subcommittee reports—Discuss further with Jonathan Wright
 - Discuss how and when information will be shared further

- Evaluate process and feedback cycle
- Use raw data for Peoria Region vs Peoria & Peoria County, not averages
- Other place/organizations to obtain data
 - United Way
 - IL Board of Education
 - US (Averages)
- Census Reports (Information & Technology has put data in a spreadsheet
- Discuss the role of Steering Committee members with 8 subcommittees more

6. Recommendations to the City and County

- None, at this time.

7. New Business

- None, at this time.

8. Adjournment

- Co-chair Tim Bertschy adjourned the meeting to order at 7:00pm.