

Community Relations Council  
Minutes  
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom  
April 14, 2020  
6:00-7:00 PM

**Attending:** Ayana Crawford, Carlo Dawson, Cynthia Ware, Darryl Cunningham, Gigi Anderson, Isaiah Venning, Jessica Yang, Robert Karkoski, Shekinah Miller, Sierra Hughes, Summersby Okey

**Visitors:**

**City Staff:** Jason Weil

**Not Attending:** Dale Johnson, Rachel Lillibridge,

*Purpose: To promote respect, appreciation and understanding of diversity among all people in our community by promoting positive human relations and reducing discrimination, assessing and responding to the human relations needs of our community, serving as a source of information, and advocating and recognizing change to achieve our mission.*

**1. Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Purpose Review**

- Meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM
- Our new member, Jessica Yang introduced herself to the council.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

- The minutes were approved with any necessary changes.

**3. New Business**

*a. Reports from sub-committees*

*i. Black History sub-committee*

- There are no additional updates at this time.

*ii. Teacher Supply Drive*

- Ayana spoke to Serena Williams with RH Schools and Larry Wench from Race and Reconciliation. Larry;s group is willing to collaborate moving forward.
- The sub-committee made the following suggestions:
  - January 4, 2021 is the start date for collecting items.
  - March 2021 is the deadline for collecting items for Middle School students. Distribution will be Tuesday, March 8, 2021.
  - The RH Schools Personnel Department has been contacted for more information on needs for new teachers who are in their first 3 years of teaching.
  - Serena suggested collecting a few items starting at back to school as they are often on sale and folks can get the best deal. We can then hold the items until March.
  - Showmars, Galleria Mall, has agreed to be a drop off location.

- Feedback from the committee suggests that we host a “back to school bash” before the Spring Semester. They feel that teachers’ largest need is in January at the start of the second semester, and March may be too late to make an impact.
  - The committee suggests that we give supplies to all teachers and not just new teachers, as they all need help.
- iii. *MLK sub-committee*
- The caterer sent a reminder to GiGi to leave a review on google for her catering services.
  - The committee voted unanimously to raise the amounts for the 2021 MLK Breakfast sponsorships to the amount to be determined by the sub-committee in a subsequent meeting. The committee as a whole will then vote on the amounts proposed by the sub-committee.
- iv. *Update on movie viewing*
- Screening of the film Emanuel.
  - This is on hold until COVID-19 has passed. We will revisit it during Race Equality Week.
- v. *Update on MLK speakers*
- There is not a concrete update at this time, but we do need to start working on this now, to get a jump on the process for next year’s speaker.
  - Jason pulled the financial statement, and he feels that we have the funds to increase the honorarium for the speaker.
  - Nominations (including biography and justification) can be submitted to Jason via email to be reviewed by the committee.
  - The committee voted unanimously that the deadline to receive nominations will be July 2020, so that the committee can vote at their August Meeting.
  - The committee would like a speaker who may draw in attendees and also be impactful and speak to the forthcoming theme.
  - Any suggestions for the theme can go to GiGi via email.
- vi. *Virtual Resources*
- What can we do to be more engaged and impactful to the community during COVID-19?
  - Though we do not have an official Social Media account for CRC, we do have ways through newsletters or Nextdoor to get information out.
  - The committee suggests coming up with some questionnaires or icebreakers to share with families and neighborhoods that they can engage with digitally.
  - Dr. Yang has some relationship building ice breakers that she has already developed and she is happy to share those with the committee to help bring folks together during a time of distancing.

- Ayana and Jessica will work together on this and will get some information to Cynthia, Carlo and Jason.
- Any other resources the committee members may have to share using their natural talents are welcome!
- The National League of Cities has a webinar tomorrow at noon about how to engage youth during COVID-19. Jason will share the information on this opportunity with the group.

#### **4. Old Business**

##### *a. Summer Retreat*

- The date we selected, July 12, is tentative. If anything changes, Carlo will inform the group.

##### *b. Election Process*

- By our next meeting, we need to elect sub-committee chairs. If chairs or co-chairs would like to continue, or would like to drop off, please let Carlo know before our next meeting.
- Current Chairs:
  - MLK: Gigi, Co-Chair: Cynthia
  - Black History Month: Sierra, Co-Chair: Isaiah
  - Race Equality Week: Summersby, Co-Chair: Bob
  - School Supply Drive: Ayana, Co-Chair: Darryl

##### *c. Announcements and Concerns*

- Sierra suggested doing something to virtually promote the census to see if anyone has any ideas. Jason included the information in his Neighborhood Newsletter 3 weeks ago. We can also include a reminder in the CRC Newsletter.
- Gigi suggests sharing resources in the newsletter as she interacts with many families who are struggling with unemployment or lost wages. Summersby will share the United Way Resource page with the group.

#### **5. City Announcements**

- City Offices are available by appointment only. Contact City Personnel by phone or email.

#### **6. Adjournment**

- The meeting is adjourned at 7:04

*The next monthly CRC meeting will be held Thursday, May 14, 2020 from 6:00pm – 7:00pm, at Housing & Neighborhood Services (hopefully).*