

Community Relations Council
Minutes
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom
August 13, 2020
6:00-7:00 PM

Attending: Ayana Crawford, Carlo Dawson, Cynthia Ware, Dale Johnson, Darryl Cunningham, Gigi Anderson, Isaiah Venning, Jessica Yang, Rachel Lillibridge, Robert Karkoski, Sierra Hughes, Summersby Okey,

Visitors:

City Staff: Jason Weil

Not Attending: Shekinah Miller,

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.

- Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Purpose Review
 - Called to order at 6:02 PM
- Approval of Minutes
 - June meeting minutes were approved unanimously with no changes.
- New Business
 - a. Reports from sub-committees
 - i. Black History sub-committee
 - No new updates.
 - Theme: Harlem Renaissance.
 - If anyone knows anyone that is a performer (poetry, music, singing, dancing), send recommendations to Sierra.
 - ii. Teacher Supply Drive
 - Isaiah reached out to Old Pointe and Independence Elementary school to see what their needs are. Those will be our schools of focus.
 - He hopes to have an answer from staff by next week.
 - School will start back on September 8. They may not know what they need now.
 - Jessica will follow up at Old Pointe and Independence during meetings this week.

- We will collect supplies to be distributed in January.
- We do know that everyone will need hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes, gloves, kleenex, and disposable masks for students who do not provide their own, so that may be a place to start. Gigi seconded that cleaning supplies are a major concern for teachers. It is not clear how those will be provided to them.
- We need to think about how the supplies will be collected- a suggestion is to get donations from businesses.
- We may need to get a number count from the schools, as many as 40% of students are doing strictly virtual. The district also has not announced what cleaning supplies they will be providing.
- Dale is willing to ask North Central to provide supplies for schools as a healthcare organization as a donation to the schools. If he can get an idea of how many we are talking about, he can make a presentation to the CEO.
- January or February may be too late for these types of items. We need to remember that once we get into the Fall, we will not only have the virus, but we will also be dealing with the Flu.
- We will likely have a better idea of need once school begins September 8. We can start with PPE's and cleaning supplies for now. Teachers also always need pencils and paper for students who may not have them.

iii. MLK sub-committee

- Virtual vs. In person
 - The sub-committee feels that we should go ahead and plan for a virtual event to avoid having to make two plans.
 - The committee suggests that we reach out to the Mayor and see what his feelings are before we vote and make a decision either way. If we want to make a decision today, we can cast a vote contingent on the Mayor's approval.

- It may not even be an option to do an indoor event, as many venues are not hosting outside groups right now.
- Motion: We hold a Virtual MLK Celebration in 2021 contingent on the Mayor's approval.
- Vote: The committee is unanimously in favor.
- Speaker
 - A virtual event may allow us to have a virtual speaker that may be more high-profile given the fact that we can bring them in virtually.
 - We do currently have 3 nominations for in-person speakers that came from the CRC committee members and have ties to SC.
 - Even if we can get a higher profile speaker, we have to remember that we have a fairly small and tight budget. The budget may go further, however, as we would not have to pay for travel.
 - The committee also brought up the value of having a local speaker for this type of event.
 - Motion by Dale: We make the selection of speakers based on the 3 nominations that were submitted prior to the deadline.
 - i. Second: Bob
 - ii. Vote: Yes- 11, No- 2
 - Carlo made a motion to table this vote until the next meeting so the committee has a chance to talk to both First Baptist and the Mayor to solidify their plans and ideas surrounding the breakfast.
 - i. Second: Rachel
 - ii. Vote: Yes- 2, No- 11
 - Summersby will set up an anonymous survey for CRC members to vote for the speaker with a ranked choice. Summersby will have the survey ready by the end of the day on Friday, August 14. Votes will be due to Summersby by Thursday, August 20th.

- Jason and Carlo will reach out to the mayor with our choice before we reach out to any speakers directly.
- Dreamkeeper Award
 - Deadline for applications- November 8.
 - Applications will need to be mailed or emailed to Jason.

iv. Newsletter subcommittee

- Initially, as a response to COVID, things went well. The last few weeks or so, however, things have deteriorated quickly.
- The sub-committee has agreed that we want to be putting out content less frequently than weekly.
- Folks are not submitting articles even in time for a monthly publishing.
- We need to revisit what we want to do with this space and who is actually committed to doing the work to make it happen.
- The sub-committee will set up a meeting to discuss the vision and present a new plan to the larger committee. We do feel like we are running out of things to say, so we may need to revisit our theme or vision. It may be more feasible to do a monthly publication. We may need to ask whether we want to continue to fill this space as we move into the busier phase of the year.
- Ayana will share the notes from the last sub-committee meeting.
- Jessica and Ayana ask that the members of the sub-committee please reach out and let them know their level of commitment and the amount they are able to contribute to the project.
- Dale would like to join the committee. He can commit to writing one article per month.
- Current members: Ayana, Jessica, Summersby, Rachel

- Anyone on the board is welcome to contribute and submit an article. This is not limited to the sub-committee members.
- v. Race Equality Subcommittee
- Summersby will send an email update to all members regarding all REM events.
 - Race Equality Week versus Month
 - Motion: Change the name of the event to Race Equality Month and have at least one event per week over the entire month of September.
 - i. Second: Dale
 - ii. Vote: Unanimous yes
 - Next Meeting (conflicts with REM)
 - A Race Equality Month event conflicts with our regularly scheduled meeting time.
 - Proposed alternative time: Tuesday, September 8 from 6:00-7:00
 - The committee has voted by majority to hold the meeting on this day and time.
- Old Business
 - a. Retreat Review
 - i. We will table this until our next meeting. All committee members are encouraged to review the retreat minutes prior to our next meeting.
 - b. Financial Literacy Update
 - i. We will revisit this at the September meeting.
 - c. Announcements and Concerns
 - i. If anyone has information on COVID testing sites, please share via email with the group.
 - ii. City Council met on Monday and there was almost no mention of overlap with the Citizen Review Board overlapping with existing City Board and Commissions. We may need to advocate to the City Council for our participation in this project.

d. City Announcements

i. See newsletter coming out tomorrow for City Announcements.

● Adjournment

a. The meeting is adjourned at 7:22 PM

CRC's next monthly meeting is scheduled for: Tuesday, September 8 from 6:00-7:00