

HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

Race Equity Advisory Council Meeting Notes

Date: February 18, 2021

Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Location: MS Teams

In attendance:

Council members: Amani Berry, Biiftuu Ibrahim Adam, Deran Cadotte, Farhia Mohamed, Johnathon McClellan, Larry Hiscock, Latasha Jennings, Mahogany Ellis Crutchfield, Mukul Sheila Webb, Tekia Jefferson

Not Present: Debjyoti Dwivedy (DD), Paul Beshah

County Staff: Alisa Salweski, Chela Guzman-Wiegert, Ginny Gelms, Mercy Das, Nimisha Nagalia, Pat Zagaros, Randy Larson, Robert Gruba, Vinodh Kutty

Guests: Hennepin County Commissioner Kevin Anderson and Commissioner Debbie Goettel
League of Women Voters, Crystal, New Hope, East Plymouth, Robbinsdale: Kathy Pederson, President, Joann Brown, Voter Services, Michelle Jayne, Membership Chair;

- 1) February agenda approved.
Deran Cadotte moved to approve Tekia Jefferson seconded. 11 Ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain
- 2) January meeting notes approved.
Deran Cadotte moved to approve, Sheila Webb seconded. 11 Ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain
- 3) Commissioner Anderson introduced himself and in response to questions from members spoke about:
 - a. support for \$15 minimum wage with an inflation factor,
 - b. need for housing that is affordable to those working full time. the need for public/private partnerships to develop inclusive housing
 - c. need to include transit in planning for housing.

Racial equity priorities for the county are:

 - a. inequities in health services, housing support, child protection programs
 - b. address systemic problems.
- 4) Commissioner Goettel introduced herself and in response to questions from members spoke about:
 - a. Expectation of council: bring back information on what community is experiencing and steps county can take to improve the lives of residents
 - b. Issue of housing displacement: think boldly about housing at a regional level, lobby the state to take a larger role, have housing where people live. Plan for the county to be a leader in supportive housing initiatives.

Race equity priorities for the county

- a. Child protection—upstream intervention so families don't enter the system
 - b. Judicial and criminal justice system—ways to give people second chances, diversion programs to keep people out of the system.
- 5) League of Women Voters, Crystal, New Hope, East Plymouth, Robbinsdale, Kathy Pederson, President, Joann Brown, Voter Services, Michelle Jayne, Membership Chair; League of Women Voters, Crystal, New Hope, East Plymouth, Robbinsdale.
- a. Discussion about current strategic planning the League is going through to increase participation in BIPOC communities, diversifying poll workers, restoring voting rights to people who've lost it.
 - b. How county can support their work: Support the work of Minneapolis League, possibly translate materials since League's budgets are small.
- 6) Hennepin County Elections Department presentation about efforts to engage people in the election process, Nimisha Nagalia, Voter Engagement Specialist, and Ginny Gelms, Hennepin County Elections Manager. Significant effort went into explaining absentee voting process and county had a very high participation rate. Building toward year round voter education and engagement.
- 7) Updates from Committees:
- Child Protection: Mahogany Ellis-Crutchfield
 - Had first meeting and decided on issues to discuss and people to meet.
 - Would like discussion on format for report—this will be discussed in the April meeting
 - Civic Engagement: Sheila Webb
 - Had a meeting with a member from the Robbinsdale school board about civic engagement.
 - Arranged for members of the League of Voters to attend today's meeting.
 - Education: Farhia Mohamed
 - Want to establish a working group of stakeholders
 - Request for other Council members to share people they know. Suggestion—Contact Danna Wade at Brooklyn Park Schools.
 - Housing: Larry Hiscock
 - Committee has been meeting every other Saturday morning at 10. Zoom link is on Basecamp
 - Information about an RFP for supportive housing for individuals is on Basecamp. Deran will be on the review committee
 - Looking at buckets of work:
 - What HC is doing to address core needs and services;
 - inequity in home ownership and wealth gap;
 - building knowledge and learning as a committee;
 - determining how to engage expertise in the community.
 - Public Safety/Justice: Latasha Jennings
 - Meetings are scheduled twice a month. Zoom link is on Basecamp calendar

- Deciding what topics and people to discuss
- Met with Judge and division manager for juvenile probation

8) Announcements and discussion

- Climate action engagement plan review – will post on Basecamp.
- Dr Rachel Hardeman will be presenting at Hennepin County on May 18th from noon to 1:00 pm on the intersection of Race, Health and Justice. All are welcome to attend.
- Topic for March meeting:
 - County engagement strategy
 - Commissioners Lunde and LaTondresse will attend
- Topic for April meeting
 - Want opportunities for the Council to discuss work being done by members
 - Don't crowd the agenda
 - Allow more time with Commissioners
- Debrief after meeting
 - Discuss at next meeting
- Survey will be sent to members to gauge members' experience so far and solicit suggestions for the future.

9) Meeting adjourned on motion by Mahogany Ellis-Crutchfield and seconded by Johnathon McClellan. 11 Ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain.