

## Minutes for October 12, 2023 6:30 PM Justice, Equity, Belonging, Inclusion and Diversity Committee

### Members Present

Sonya Spaulding  
William Toborg  
Chris Roberts  
Joellen Mulvaney  
Ellen Kaye (arrived at 7:15)  
Rikk Taft (Staff)

### Visitors Present

Brooke Pouliot  
Michael Deering Sr  
CVTV

### Adjustments to the Agenda

Resolution to the Council on the attacks in Israel

Meeting called to order at 6:35PM,

Joellen Mulvaney respectfully requested that no one record the meeting independently. Sonya Spaulding, new member provided a statement on what she wants to see the committee accomplish. Reading through the mission, the most important thing I would hope to accomplish is to educate the community including the community leaders about what justice, equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging mean and to striving to recognize what we all different but that we can live together and respect those differences and be kind, inclusive, and hope that others feel that they belong is probably one of the most basic things that we could do.

Joellen Mulvaney called for adjustments to the agenda.

William Toborg asked to put out a statement on the events in Israel, seconded by Chris Roberts, Sonya Spaulding agreed.

Chris Roberts asked if we were writing a resolution. Suggestion made that other committee members could weigh in.

### Update on Vermont Community Foundation Grant

Joellen sent update to funders advising that the flood had delayed the events and could not make the dates, that we had postponed it until four Mondays in November and that Kristi Clemens was OK with that as people could not make one or more of the October dates. We have two more opportunities to do two more sets. I would also like to put out a query to people to see if we can hone it toward people's opportunities to make a date.

Asked for each of us to write a paragraph or two on how we have an impact on the community so we can show the full diversity of our committee. Joellen asked that we do it as close to the date. Rikk Taft pointed out that it would be for the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2023.

#### Flood Restoration Discussion

Joellen asked if the Barre City Equity tool was being used and it was pointed out that the state was not doing it.

Brooke Pouliot presented information on what Barre Up is doing. There will be an October 18, 2023 follow up for the focus groups. There is no Zoom option listed. Spoke with Laura Bailey about the different groups, housing, infrastructure and planning, long term recovery.

Have been attending the local Thrive group as to what different agencies are doing, discussing the homelessness and people with high medical needs.

Joellen indicated that they have been going through surveys and finding out those affected by the flood and that there are 50 homes that are without heat. The state is not willing to share the information with the City Council.

There are no copies of the Black River Design plan. Would like to get a hold of it and apply the assessment tool to it.

Sonya Spaulding said that she understood that Black River Design would come back in two weeks to present a plan.

Rikk shared a copy of the Barre City Equity Assessment Tool for Policy and Budgets.

William Toborg made a motion to remove reference to Covid 19

Sonya Spaulding seconded

Joellen Mulvaney suggested that she is hesitant to remove Covid 19.

Sonya suggested is it for Covid 19, Flood Recovery, or Other which William considered a friendly amendment and suggested a check box for the three options

William, Sonya, Chris, and Joellen voted Aye, Ellen Kaye abstained

William Toborg made a motion to include income wherever any other attributes are indicated.

Seconded by Chris Roberts.

William, Sonya, Chris, and Joellen voted Aye. Ellen Kaye abstained.

Joellen suggested calling for a special meeting in two weeks. Sonya Spaulding moved lobbying the City Council to run the plan through the equity tool. William Toborg seconded.

William, Sonya, Chris, and Joellen voted Aye. Ellen Kaye abstained.

Joellen indicated that we would put together something as a resolution to bring it for our special meeting.

Meeting will be held on October 27, 2023 at 6:30PM.

William Toborg suggested that the abatement process will give us some information on those affected by the flood.

No Public Comments

William Toborg made the motion to adjourn  
Chris Roberts seconded



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DRAFT