

**CITY OF BARRE
PUBLIC BODY MEETING MINUTES**

Committee/board: Diversity and Equity Committee

Date of meeting: Monday, August 17, 2020, 6:00PM

Location of meeting: Zoom Videoconference with Call-in Option

Board/committee members in attendance:

- Ellen Kaye
- Danielle Owczarski
- William Toborg
- Christopher Roberts
- Joelen Mulvaney
- Marichel Vaught

Board/committee members absent:

- Jennifer Hutchinson

Others in attendance:

- Jason Broughton – member of public
- Steve Mackenzie – City Manager
- Carol Dawes – City Clerk

Topic(s) Discussed

1. Called to order at 6:04 p.m. by acting Chair Steve Mackenzie
2. Adjustments to the Agenda: none.
3. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting: none.
4. Old Business: none.
5. New Business
 - a. New member introductions.
 - b. Open Meeting Law Review and Orientation by Dawes.
 - i. Danielle Owczarski started taking meeting minutes when chair responsibilities and nominations were discussed.
 - c. Committee Organization:
 - i. Chair (Joelen Mulvaney), Co-Chair (Marichel Vaught), and Secretary (Danielle Owczarski) were nominated.
 - d. Establish Standing Meeting Date:
 - i. Committee established standing meeting date as the 3rd Monday of the month and a meeting in two weeks. The next two meetings were scheduled for August 31st at 6:15PM and September 21st at 6:15PM.
 - ii. **Mackenzie** will send a list of committee contacts to the committee members.
 - iii. **Mulvaney** will contact Hutchinson to check her availability for scheduled meetings.
 - e. Discussion of Committee Priorities

- i. Mackenzie confirmed that the committee can develop priorities and submit to council or ask to meet with council to understand better council's priorities for the committee. Committee's also report in every 3 months to brief council.
 - ii. Danielle commented that the Mayor wanted the committee to review city policy and that council referred the Flag Policy to the committee.
 - iii. Vaught – Priorities are to provide a minority voice living in a white community, encourage diversity in our community, workshops on equity, diversity and justice for all community leaders, speaking on behalf of minority populations with a focus on disabilities, gender bias, and ageism.
 - iv. Roberts – Priority to focus on larger community issues focusing on myriad groups – LGBTQ+, disabled, elderly, and also looking at housing, contracting, employment, and bias training opportunities.
 - v. Mulvaney made the comment that this group can work closely with the Civilian Oversight and Advisory Committee.
 - vi. Owczarski – Priorities are bias training for city staff and leaders, education and outreach on equity and justice issues including safe spaces for people to share their stories, and city policy review to ensure equity.
 - vii. Toborg – Priorities are do no harm, identify existing problems Barre City, political and religious bias, diversity and equity, make people feel welcome.
 - viii. Kaye – Committee does not necessarily represent marginalized groups for various reasons so do not be presumptuous about equity. Priorities are focus on equity when reviewing city policy, ask Barre City residents what they need – community assessment. Need to represent people well.
 - ix. Mulvaney – Priorities are community assessment and figure out how to pull people together to provide feedback, focus on the youth community for feedback, and training with consultancies for leaders and community.
- f. Round Table
- i. Discussion that Facebook is option for public outreach
 - ii. Meetings are preferred to be 60 minutes, but should not go over 90 minutes if possible. Also makes it easier for public to attend the entire meeting.
 - iii. We should support the facilitator in their role.
 - iv. **Mackenzie** will provide the council/committee rules and procedures
 - v. Mulvaney recommended using signals in Zoom so that people can be heard clearly.
 - vi. Vaught commented that this committee can also work alongside the ADA committee and she will be listening in on their next meeting.
 - vii. Toborg suggested that a Facebook page can be a place to receive input from the public
 - 1. Vaught volunteered to set up and manage a Facebook page for the D&E committee. Kaye and Owczarski offered to help Vaught.
 - 2. Vaught had question if Facebook could be used to engage people and solicit information.

3. **Mackenzie** will get back to the committee about any policies and information around the use of Facebook by committees.
- viii. **Mackenzie** offered that the committee should consider the option of having meetings noticed by the Times Argus, but should be aware of cost/benefit.
- ix. Homework for next meeting
 1. Think about priorities for goals and objectives for this committee
 2. Read policies and information sent in previous emails

Action items

1) Motion:

Mover/Second: Chris made a motion to nominate Mulvaney as Chair. Toborg called to cease nominations.

Result of vote: All in favor – six yes

2) Motion:

Mover/Second: Toborg made a motion to nominate Vaught as Vice-Chair. Motion was seconded by Roberts. Toborg called to cease nominations.

Result of vote: All in favor – six yes

3) Motion:

Mover/Second: Toborg made a motion to nominate Owczarski as Secretary. Motion was seconded by Roberts. Toborg called to cease nominations

Result of vote: All in favor – six yes

Meeting adjourned:

Mover/Second: Toborg moved to adjourn. Marichel seconded.

Time: 7:30PM

Next meeting date/time/location: Monday, August 31st at 6:15PM on Zoom

Notes submitted by:



Danielle Owczarski
Barre City D&E Committee Secretary