

CITY OF BARRE
PUBLIC BODY APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Committee/board: Diversity and Equity Committee

Date of meeting: Monday, December 7, 2020, 6:15 PM

Location of meeting: Zoom Videoconference with Call-in Option

Board/committee members in attendance:

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

Others in attendance:

- Phayvanh Luekhamhan (member of public)

Topic(s) Discussed

1. Call to order at 6:15 PM.
2. Adjustments to the Agenda.
 - a. None
3. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting
 - a. Meeting minutes approved for two meeting 11/16/2020 and 11/23/2020
4. Old Business:
 - a. Sub-committee reports
5. New Business:
 - a. Discussion - Examining Barre City response to Covid pandemic
 - i. Joelen - had a discussion with Chief Bombardier and concerns about the treatment of people living at the poverty level.
 - ii. Joelen - reviewed the website to find information about how the city is addressing COVID-19 in the community
 1. Didn't feel the information was easy to access for people to know city and state protocols
 2. If someone is hungry, there are no obvious links for people to access food
 - iii. Marichel - website is antiquated on how they share information and she's been working on how to make the website and sharing more accessible. Town manager wants the website more accessible and the council is meeting to talk about their social media presence. Believes resources need to be available. Also accessibility services available (language translation, visual disabilities, etc.)
 - iv. Joelen - spoke with Lucas about masks and mask mandates. Feels a mask mandate for the city is about messaging.
 - v. Danielle - believes the site could be more helpful with an alert banner that would allow easy access to people who need resources

- vi. Ellen recognizes that websites that are more active take more work to accomplish.
 - vii. Danielle - can we connect with organizations to understand what they are working on in relation to COVID-19 relief to share with the city
 - 1. Capstone, Food Shelf, ADA group
 - viii. Marichel - recommended access to 211 which many people are not familiar with - we could keep them updated with emergency information
 - ix. Joelen - connect with people to understand what their needs are
 - x. **Marichel** - Rikk Taft - the city's technical staff - Marichel will contact him
 - xi. **Danielle** will review other websites to make recommendations to share with Marichel
 - xii. Joelen and Ellen - Messaging and education is the best path forward
 - xiii. **Joelen** will call Douglas Brent - fire chief tasked with COVID-19 point person for Barre City
 - xiv. **Joelen** will call Jody Norway to ask what information the city provides someone who would be visiting
 - xv. **Ellen** can talk to Bern Rose in connection with Mutual Aid and other organizations helping with COVID-19 response
 - b. Develop a process for proposing and organizing educational activities
 - i. How should the committee bring up opportunities for education, training, and learning around topics of diversity and equity (ex. collaborating with the Library to do reading series)?
 - ii. Marichel - Can we put information out to the public on Front Porch Forum
 - iii. Ellen - Can we invite Lauren Polk to a meeting or Jason Broughton to a meeting to discuss recommending books or a reading and discussion series
 - iv. Danielle and Chris are working on the policy sub-committee
6. Set next meeting Date: Monday, December 21, 2020 .
7. Round Table
- a. Marichel - Very happy to see the Black Lives Matter flag raised and it was very emotional.
 - b. Danielle - Felt proud of the city seeing the staff raise the flag.
 - c. Ellen - Was also happy about the raising of the flag. Concerned about the message of raising the thin blue line flag gives to raise it immediately after the Black Lives Matter flag because of the connection with the deaths of black people due to police brutality and incarceration.
8. Adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Action items

- 1. **Marichel** - Rikk Taft - the city's technical staff - Marichel will contact him
- 2. **Danielle** will review other websites to make recommendations to share with Marichel
- 3. **Joelen** will call Douglas Brent - fire chief tasked with COVID-19 point person for Barre City
- 4. **Joelen** will call Jody Norway to ask what information the city provides someone who would be visiting

5. **Ellen** can talk to Bern Rose in connection with Mutual Aid and other organizations helping with COVID-19 response

1) Motion: Move to adopt 11/16/2020 minutes as amended.

Mover/Second: William/Marichel

Result of vote: All in favor

2) Motion: Move to adopt 11/23/2020 minutes with no amendments

Mover/Second: Ellen/William

Result of vote: All in favor

Meeting adjourned:

Mover/Second: William/Marichel

Time: 7:15 PM

Next meeting date/time/location: Monday, December 21 at 6:15 PM via Zoom



Danielle Owczarski