

112 Second Street
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City of Langley

Dismantling Systemic Racism Advisory Group

MINUTES

February 24, 2021 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

LANGLEY CITY HALL
112 2nd Street, Langley WA

Attendees

Terra Huey, Matt Tamayo, Marcella Pendergrass, Kennedy Horstman, Irene Vernon, Harolynne Bobis, Craig Cyr, Christy Korrow, Chris Byrne, Brigid Reynolds, Barbara Schaetti

Guests: Rose Homme, Grace Diliberto, Preston Ossman, Sweth Sobottka, Diana Sandoval, Kenesha Lewin, Derek Hoshiko

1. Agenda Approval

- Vote: Approve 8, Oppose 0, Abstain 0

2. Minutes Approval

- Vote: Approve 8 Oppose 0, Abstain 0
- Discussion: Slight name changed needed in SWSD section. Replace Barbara with Irene.
- Decision: Minutes approved with the above noted amendment

3. Status Updates & Announcements

- Craig -City Council update - none
- Matt/Irene Co-Chairs update - none
- Kennedy - Comprehensive Plan

- Discussion: Thanks given to community members for wide distribution of Comprehensive Plan information to over 600 contacts
- Irene- Island County covid planning committee
 - Discussion: More vaccines arriving. County working on equity plans to reach BIPOC and other marginalized folx. Johnson & Johnson, one shot vaccine will be used for hard to reach populations like the homeless (those that would be hard to find for a second shot). To see how WA is doing in distribution you can go to www.wsha.org
- Irene-SWSD Education update - none
- Barbara- Grange update
 - Discussion: 50 people have applied to join the Grange and they have not heard back yet about their membership application. There are many questions about criteria for approved membership that have not yet been answered. Membership comes with a 1 year obligation as the Grange is a service organization and is interested in working with the community.
 - Decision: The Grange will be a regular update.
- Announcements
 - Brigid notified the committee that they are not allowed to send out letters since they represent the city. This refers to a thank you letter sent to the SWSD for accepting ethnic studies and environmental studies classes as a graduation requirement. Decision: Brigid will research whether DSR must get approval to write thank you letters and what kind of approval will be needed.
 - Marcella informed the committee that we have been asked to send a representative to Puget Sound Association of Seniors (PSAS) to talk about issues of discrimination and race. She will send more information out to us. Decision: No one designated yet.

4. Guests: Kenesha, Diana, Rose (City Council Training)

- Discussion:
 - Various responses to what type of training the City needs.
 - There is an urgency of the issue of white supremacy on the island and it needs to be treated as such
 - Recognizing and exhibiting anti-racism on the part of City employees.
 - Discussion of whiteness as a concept.
 - City Council needs to understand why "civility" isn't universal.

- All City Council members need to understand that this racism, white supremacy, and white nationalists are present on the Island, not just in Seattle.
 - Basic training (patterns and other signs) and public forums. Possibly a two-day (in terms of hours). Restorative justice initiatives and reading "Defund Fear."
 - Possibly four forums a year – partnering with other social justice groups, including members of the community.
 - Information on how to get DSR activities out into the community.
 - Peter Morton has done some preliminary work on city training and can be helpful in determining which council members and which staff members could work together. He can help identify the participants. We would need 3 groups of 2 council members and some staff.
 - DSR working with community groups and having the community forums would be more than helpful.
 - Western States Center (WSC) will talk about racism and other issues in the larger context. Afterwards, Kenesha, Derek, Diana and Rose will do training related to local issues.
- Decision: Craig will work with the City Council about training and will add WSC to Monday's City Council agenda; Brigid will schedule the staff training.

5. Closing

- Next DSR Mtg: March 10, 2021