

Dismantling Systemic Racism Meeting Updates

March 24, 2021

City Council Update (Craig)

1. Council agreed to reschedule DSR Training by WSC on April 12th to 3:30 pm so as to include Staff during normal work hours.
2. Per observation from Co-chair Irene Vernon, that economically challenged communities of color frequently are denied access to Pools that require entry fees, I proposed an amendment to a resolution endorsing a Public Aquatics facility. The amendment added a new Therefore clause:

"And, be it Further Resolved that the City Council of Langley encourages South Whidbey Parks & Aquatics Foundation and South Whidbey Parks and Recreation to structure entry fees such that economically challenged individuals, and families, who pay taxes to fund the public aquatic facility, will have access to the public aquatic facility."

I am grateful to Irene for her observation and glad that the Langley City Council agreed to the amendment unanimously.

Co-Chairs Update (Matt/Irene)

1. None

Comprehensive Plan (Kennedy)

1. Comp Plan Goal Update completed first reading. Second reading scheduled for April 5

Island County Covid Planning Committee (Irene)

1. Rolled out new resources and tools to help ensure equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccine.
 - o **Minimum standards**

They asked that all providers assess their current practices for language access, accessibility for people with disabilities, and demographic data reporting. **Most providers already meet these standards.** All providers are asked to assess their accessibility for people with limited English proficiency and people with disabilities by April 2, 2021 and work on areas that need improvement. We are here to provide support and technical assistance. **You do not need to submit any proof of assessment and compliance efforts to the Washington State Department of Health.** We will reach out to proactively support overcoming access barriers if we hear of them by community members

- **Pro-equity strategies**

These pro-equity strategies have emerged directly from communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and partners. These strategies are highly **recommended to support equitable access.** They will add additional strategies and resources to our [COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

[Equity & Engagement webpage](#) and would appreciate hearing about your success stories implementing these or other pro-equity strategies. Email equity@doh.wa.gov to share your success stories and best practices.

SWSD Education Update (Irene)

1. None, no meetings held

Reclaim The Grange (Barbara)

Very sobering update meeting, Thursday March 18th. 75+ participants. A truth-telling by the steering committee about the now unequivocal nature of the bad faith obstructionism by local, state, and national Grange, including the high probability that the 50+ new membership applications will be refused (still no official word to anyone). Personal testimony about local harassment and threats by white nationalists, and a fact- and data-based update of how national white militia movements are linked very directly to South Whidbey and to local hate and racist incidents. Recognition that it is hard to explain the threat as understanding it depends not only on the intellect but on feeling all the feels. The Q&A section spoke to safety (given that the Grange now has all that applicant data, and that at least one steering committee member has been directly threatened); strategy (building strong community as a starting and ongoing campaign emphasis, and the need for us all to stand ready as the steering committee continues working); and more. They announced the April 12th Western States Center training for the City of Langley, and encouraged support of the work of the DSR.

ReclaimTheGrange campaign principles: Safety, Equity, and an Inclusive Democracy.

The meeting started with a song by singer/songwriter Holly Near, and ended with these lyrics: "To be hopeless would be so strange. It dishonors those who have gone before.... So lift us up to the light of change."