

SYSTEMIC RACISM REVIEW COMMITTEE

April 13, 2021 12:00 PM

Zoom Webinar

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Worl called the Systemic Racism Review Committee Work session to order at 12:00pm

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chair Lisa Worl, Grace Lee, Dominic Branson, Kelli Patterson, Gail Dabaluz, Carla Casulucan and David Russell-Jensen.

Members Absent: None

Assemblymembers & Staff Present: SRRC Assembly Liaison Christine Woll, CBJ Attorney Rob Palmer, Deputy City Manager Mila Cosgrove, Deputy Municipal Clerk Di Cathcart

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda approved as presented.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes approved as presented.

A. 2021-04-01 SRRC Work Session Minutes-DRAFT

V. AGENDA TOPICS

A. Create Committee Assignments

At the last meeting, the committee discussed assigning members to attend and track what is moving through the Assembly Standing Committees: Committee of the Whole, Finance, Human Resources, Public Works & Facilities Committee and Lands, Housing & Economic Development Committee.

Committee members chose which Assembly Standing Committee they will follow and report back on what various legislation is moving through the Assembly committees on its way to the Full Assembly for action.

Ms. Dabaluz - Assembly Human Resources Committee (HRC)

Mr. Russell-Jensen - Assembly Public Works & Facilities (PWFC)

Ms. Lee - Assembly Finance Committee (AFC)

Ms. Patterson - Assembly Human Resources (HRC)

Mr. Branson - Assembly Committee of the Whole (COW)

Ms. Casulucan - Lands, Housing & Economic Development Committee (LHED)

Chair Worl - will be an alternate for all committees with a focus on AFC during the budget cycle

All of the Assembly Standing Committee meetings are recorded and SRRC members can reach out to the Clerk's Office for copies of the recordings if they are unable to attend a meeting.

MOTION: by Ms. Dabaluz to accept the committees assignments as presented. *Hearing no objection, motion passed.*

B. Outline Legislation Review Criteria & Process

Chair Worl highlighted documents she found when researching on what other communities, such as Seattle, WA, are doing to address systemic racism. Ms. Dabaluz thanked Chair Worl for sharing the information; she appreciated the tool kit example and information on what Seattle was doing.

Mr. Russell-Jensen asked staff, when the Assembly passes legislation to what extent does the Assembly have control over funds allocated to each department? Ms. Cosgrove stated the City Manager and City Attorney are the two employees that work directly for the Assembly. The Assembly can articulate policy level direction to the City Manager for him to implement to the Department Directors. If senior staff have concerns around policy direction they will notify the City Manager who will in turn have a conversation with the Assembly. Staff reports progress on projects to the Assembly typically through the Assembly Standing Committees.

Mr. Russell-Jensen, asked staff to explain the different types of ordinances. Mr. Palmer, there are generally two types of ordinances, those that go into code such as election code or issuing sidewalk vending permits and you will see a number of ordinances around Title 49 relating to building codes, these are all code ordinances that specify overall health and safety for the community. Non-code ordinances are typically appropriations in which the Assembly needs to grant authority to expend funds to a department or for a specific project. Since March of 2020 the City has had a number of emergency non-code ordinances relating to COVID-19.

Chair Worl requested holding a work session specific to learning and understanding the types of legislation the committee will be reviewing and include examples of legislation to review. Understanding the types of legislation will help the committee get a criteria outlined.

When the committee is talking about looking at other resources and developing a report criteria Ms. Dabaluz asked if they can use that criteria as a source of reference when sitting through the Assembly standing committee meetings. Mr. Branson said his understanding was committee members would attend the Assembly standing committees they signed up for and report back to the SRRC on what the particular standing committee was working on.

Mr. Palmer, when committee members find information they would like shared with the committee members, send it to the city clerk they will keep a record and forward to the committee.

Mr. Russell-Jensen, liked the example in the packet of the 10 question resource guide. He said it would be good for the committee to come up with our own questions to help the Assembly be more aware of its actions and to work in concert with the Assembly to examine legislation.

Chair Worl agreed, it would be helpful for all of us. Chair Worl noted that previous Assembly member, Mr. Edwardson kept referring to the outlined criteria as a rubric, broad and not overly complicated.

C. Board Training

Continued board and Open Meetings Act training and discussion on future trainings the committee would like to take part in. This agenda topic will continue to the April 27 committee work session as needed. Per Chair Worl, included in the packet are some resources from Seattle Race & Social Justice Initiative (<http://www.seattle.gov/rsji/resources>) and Race Forward-The Center for Racial Justice Innovation (<https://www.raceforward.org/>) the committee may find helpful.

Chair Worl reported to the committee that included in their agenda packets were some resources she had found from Seattle, WA Race & Social Justice Initiative that Seattle has been working on since 2008. She felt it would be good for the committee to go through some trainings together so they have the same language and possibly create a glossary of terms if the committee finds they are using certain terms consistently. There is a 3-part video series through PBS called Race, the Power of Illusion that could be beneficial for committee members to watch and hold a facilitated discussion

after. Chair Worl has reached out to Juneau Human Rights Commission (JHRC) Chair Haifa Foroughi to discuss co-hosting trainings between the JHRC and the SRRC. Chair Foroughi will bring this to the next JHRC meeting to find out their interest in shared trainings and report back to Chair Worl what they decide. Chair Worl then opened the meeting to discussion among the members.

Ms. Casulucan asked if they were looking at holding trainings sooner rather than later and whether it would be virtual or in-person.

Ms. Lee asked if the video series is an 8-hour training and if so, perhaps members could watch the videos at their leisure then schedule a time to come together as the group for discussion.

Chair Worl noted the committee could look at how long each video was than host a discussion group with a facilitator perhaps on a Saturday. Chair Worl thought the purchase costs for the streaming video series was around \$500.

Ms. Cosgrove stated that in general there should be funds available as the Assembly appropriated \$50,000 for the Systemic Racism Review Committee.

Ms. Dabaluz stated having the combined training is a good idea and would be in favor of holding it remotely. Ms. Dabaluz requested that aside from the PBS video training it would be good to hold trainings from local resources such as Sealaska Heritage Institute President, Rosita Worl and Juneau's Black Awareness Association President, Sherri Patterson.

Mr. Russell-Jensen stated he was in favor of going forward with the training; open to a Saturday session and agreed that it will bring committee members into the same space with shared definitions.

Ms. Casulucan was also in favor of a Saturday session and for committee members to watch the videos as a pre-work session then come together to do the work.

Mr. Branson supported the discussion and looks forward to the group discussion.

Ms. Patterson thought the video series would be a great opportunity; an equally important discussion would be what are the issues in our own communities and how best to reach out to those people who are native to Alaska or longtime residents that could share their lived experiences.

Chair Worl, noted her appreciation for the suggestions and a good start to what will be an on-going discussion. Chair Worl agreed that it would be fine to watch the video series separately then have a helpful discussion together; and requested committee members look at a date that works for us to hold the first training.

MOTION: by Ms. Casulucan to support moving forward with video series training: Race, the Power of Illusion. *Hearing no objections; motion passed.*

Chair Worl opened up the meeting to City Attorney Rob Palmer to give a tutorial of the Open Meetings Act.

Through a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Palmer walked committee members through the general Open Meetings Act (OMA) requirements all boards and committees need to follow and stated that if members ever have questions regarding OMA to reach out to him and he'd help them through it. Mr. Palmer thanked the committee for taking on this 'heavy lift' and taking time out of their normal schedules to sit on this committee.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Possible Future Meeting Dates for SRRC

The committee moved this agenda topic forward to the next work session scheduled for Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at Noon.

VII. STAFF REPORTS

The Clerk's Office let committee members know an email was forwarded to each of them with instructions on how to log in and access their CBJ email accounts. Ms. Cathcart requested committee members let her know when they have set up their accounts so staff can transition away from using committee members personal emails for committee business.

VIII. COMMITTEE MEMBER / LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

None

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE

A. April 27, 2021 at 12:00pm SRRC work session

X. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

A. Open Meetings Act Slides from CBJ Attorney Palmer

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee, meeting adjourned at 1:04pm.