

Social and Economic Justice Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

2/19/2019

Chair: Julia Chafets

Attendees: Sidney Collier, Michael Sherman, Neville, Peter Kelman, Jannel Perry, Lalitha Mailwaganam, Shaina Kasper

Guests: Kathy Johnson

Approval of meeting minutes:

- Michael moved to open the discussion, Peter seconded
- Michael - need dates on the first set of minutes (Dec 18th)
- Neville moves to accept the minutes as edited, Sigrid second, Michael and Shaina abstain, everyone else approves

Check in:

- Discussion of Peter stepping down as co-chair because missing meetings coming up; Julia to chair solo. If Julia can't be there, will appoint someone else to do them.

Learn: Reflection on Coming Home film

- Circles of Support and Accountability - for folks coming out of jail for minor offenses, circle of volunteers and a professional
- Neville read
- Another Way has open community meetings weekly every Monday at 2pm - Glen Hutchinson went recently for "Open Ears"

Learn: Systemic racism with Kathy Johnson

- Reflection of racism in Montpelier
- Introduction of CQ strategies, SURJ monthly meetings at the UU church, and 4 workshops
- Moving our Race Conversation Forward by Jay Smooth : 4 levels of racism
 - Internalized racism
 - Interpersonal racism
 - Institutional racism
 - Structural racism
- Structures were based on racist histories and so we have to acknowledge and tackle that.
- As we're doing work in the city, how can we pay attention to systemic issues
 - Suggest policies that represent and call for ending
- Practices vs. Policies.
 - What policies look good but have no teeth or have significant loopholes?
 - And what policies have good intentions but have not been thought through?

Asset Map

- What's here? And what's missing
- Engaged In / Learn More
 - We have: We're all excited about race! Also significant interest in housing, economic justice, etc.
 - Missing: LGBTQ / sexuality, disability, education, youths
- Network:
 - We have: Identity based social justice organizations, parents, people / therapists, educators, legal assistance.
 - Missing: LGBTQ organizations; Media outlets (local)
- Skills:

- We have: Research and analysis, writing and editing, organizing and planning, people, facilitation and education, advocacy and supporting underserved populations
- Missing: #s / economics,

Timeline

- Smaller group take up drafting the timeline.
- Two charges / requests from the council -- when do they want reports from us? What do they want from us? We will not be ready to make a recommendation around the living wage policy until we've done this work (we told them this) We're not taking on other business until we flesh out our process around a vision of what needs to happen
- Julia, Shaina, Sidney and Sigrid, Janelle to start planning. (Shaina, Sigrid, and Janelle to start)

Town meeting day

- We have a table reserved - survey, and to raise awareness that we exist.
- Lalitha, Julia, Peter, and Shaina to help with the survey.

DRAFT