

Date: November 19 2020

Attending: Ali Abdul, Niki Amaris, Suheir Alaskari, Jerome Bennett, Deb Ibonwa, Kate Knox, Lado Ladoka, Merita McKenzie, Peter O'Donnell, Louis Pickens, Jonathan Sahrbeck, Pious Ali (Co Chair), Lelia DeAndrade (Co-Chair); Samaa Abdurraqib (Facilitator),

Absent:

Meeting began at 5:00

Review of Agenda and minutes from 11/5//2020 approved.

Meeting Goals:

1. Discuss the 3 proposals from previous meeting
2. Update on research with Dr. Medford
3. Clarify Public Safety

Proposal: Working definition of Public Safety

- Protecting the wellbeing of people, communities, and organizations
- Safeguarding people from crimes, disaster, and other potential dangers and threats.
- Ensuring that people get a fair and equal chance for well-being and have quality of life

DeAndrade did research and identified common themes to construct a working definition

Clarified that the original resolution referenced public health which is different than public safety

Vote: 6 yes; 5 maybe

Discussion:

- Recommend changing the definition to include equity instead of equality
- Should include social service programs or safety net organizations specifically
- Should include a list of challenges that the city should be addressing
- Add a statement that includes extra consideration for BIPOC, or marginalized people.

Edits:

- Protecting the wellbeing of people, *of all races and ethnicities*, communities, and organizations
- Safeguarding people from crimes, disaster, and other potential dangers and threats and reducing fear.
- Ensuring that people get a fair and equitable chance to lead their life that is not predicted by race

Revised definition

- Protecting the wellbeing of people of all races and ethnicities, communities, and organizations
- Safeguarding people from crimes, disaster, and other potential dangers and threats and reducing fear
- Ensuring that people get a fair and equitable chance for well-being and have quality of life

Vote: Unanimously approved

Proposal: Create and establish a permanent position within the City's Health and Human Services department or the City Manager's office to regularly and daily monitor available resources (beds, treatment options, etc.) to provide updates to service providers who are working within communities in need.

Discussion:

- This is focused on services for marginalized people. There programs that are run by the city.
- This is a question about resources – not just a position but a system of monitoring the resources and coordinating them- enabling us to track demand and the ability to meet the demand
- Recommendation that this is framed to focus on the provision of real time information instead of focusing on a position. Technology could be used to create a system in which service providers can provide real time updates on available services
- We need to know all the organizations that are working to provide these services and establish a department within city government to coordinate
- We have created a solution without identifying the problems. What problem would this coordinator actually address? Is there a problem in this area? The first proposal is just passing the buck on our work before we get starting.
- The proposal was meant to reinforce the need for permanent long-term attention, regardless of and in addition to the work that we do.
- The problem is that we have real racial disparities, systematic and cultural racism, and this is the work that is needed. We need a permanent position in the city to work with this commission- similar to the structure established 20 years ago for historic preservation
- These proposals address systematic racism in permanent way and take advantage of the energy and momentum that is happening now and ensure accountability.
- Abdurraqib asked what kind of information we need to have to be able to make recommendations.
- A committee member wants to know what kinds of things people experience on the ground every day in Portland. What does it look like? What are the challenges? Is it that people aren't properly trained? How is racism manifest here? Our recommendations should be specific enough to make changes – connected to what is going on in Portland.
- Abdurraqib asked if anecdotal and statistical data would be needed. She also noted that asking Black and Brown people to tell their story is problematic. She also clarified that the second resolve asks us to look at the organizations the city engages with and ask if there are problems with that.
- Proposal to establish a commissioner or director would create an important step. It creates a frame to develop solutions to the problem over the years.
- We can table the discussion about monitoring available resources for the future and at some point, add a racial equity lens to it.
- We can vote on big picture resolutions and then get into the details down the line.

Vote: Unanimous- in favor of proposal

Proposal: Establish a commission to investigate the ways in which the City interacts with area agencies, organizations, and non-profits in the name of public safety. This commission will make recommendations for how these partnerships can best work to enhance public safety in racially equitable ways.

Meeting ended 6:30

The meeting ended abruptly when Zoom account was taken over for another meeting. Via email, advisors asked to continue the discussion at the next meeting.