

**CITY OF BELLEVUE
COMMUNITIES OF COLOR COORDINATING (CCC) TEAM
Meeting Minutes**

January 25, 2024
5:30 p.m.

Conference Room 1E-110
Bellevue City Hall

ATTENDEES: Monik Martinez, Chair
Jeri Tiernan, Vice Chair
Ruhi Gadde (Remote)
Joel Leiva-Rodriguez
Kananu Mason (Remote)
Dr. Randy Nunez
Ricardo Perezchica
Royce Yuen (Remote)

ABSENT: Ryan Qualls
Lalita Uppala

STAFF: Dr. Marcus Johnson, Diversity, Inclusion and Outreach
Administrator, City Manager's Office
Erik Mercado, Equity Coordinator, CMO
Kathy Gerla, City Attorney

BDAN LIAISON: Jim Lauinger

MINUTES WRITER: Kelly Wilson, City Clerk's Office

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by Chair Martinez.

2. ROLL CALL/PUBLIC COMMENT

Attendees are listed above.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Perezchica moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Tiernan and carried unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: None.

5. STAFF UPDATES

(a) City Attorney – Bylaws Revisions

Dr. Johnson introduced Kathy Gerla, City Attorney, to discuss proposed revisions to the bylaws.

Ms. Gerla recalled that last year, the City Council asked staff to review certain aspects of its rules and to work to increase consistency between the Council and all Boards and Commissions. As a result, changes were recommended for the CCC Team as well. Ms. Gerla highlighted the proposed changes in the CCC's bylaws regarding public participation and public comment during meetings. The Council's new rules indicate that individuals must speak to an issue related to Bellevue city government and to subject matters that fall within the powers and duties of the governing body. The rules also define a meeting disruption or disturbance that would justify a person's removal from a meeting. Staff has been providing training to the Boards and Commissions regarding the new rules.

Responding to Chair Martinez, Ms. Gerla said the Chair or other person presiding over a meeting can request police assistance, even calling 911 if necessary, to deal with a disruptive member of the public. Ms. Gerla advised the Chair to provide one warning to the individual before calling for their removal. She said the Chair might want to declare a short break to wait for the police and to allow committee members to leave the room if desired.

Mr. Perezchica moved to approve the updated CCC Team bylaws. The motion was seconded by Dr. Nunez and carried unanimously.

Chair Martinez thanked Ms. Gerla for the presentation.

(b) Diversity Advantage Team (DAT) Project Updates

Mr. Mercado noted the Elevated Voices event scheduled for the following week to kick off Black History Month. He said there will be a special art exhibit in City Hall throughout the month. Staff is also working on an event for the Day of Remembrance recognizing the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Dr. Johnson said the City is using a new budget equity tool to help guide the preparation of the budget this year. He said staff continues to work to update the Diversity Advantage Plan. He invited everyone to the upcoming public meeting to be held by the Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network (BDAN). He noted that the City Council was currently attending its annual retreat.

6. CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Ms. Martinez asked if anyone had updates from Board and Commission meetings. She said Ruhi attended the Bellevue Youth Link Board meeting.

Mr. Leiva-Rodriguez and Mr. Perezchica said they applied for vacant seats on the Planning Commission.

Chair Martinez said she, Vice Chair Tiernan and Dr. Johnson have been meeting with department staff to discuss issues of interest to the CCC Team. Dr. Johnson said they still need to meet with the Transportation Department and to follow up with Community Development staff regarding certain issues. Ms. Tiernan said they are compiling information to help inform their community dialogue recommendations for the City Council.

Dr. Johnson noted that the CCC Team's work was initially funded for three years, which expired at the end of 2023. If extended, he suggested that the committee meet once monthly instead of twice.

Ms. Tiernan and Ms. Martinez said they are working to submit a survey and/or to schedule meetings with Board and Commission staff to learn more about how members are recruited and selected, the communities represented during Board and Commission meetings and public hearings, and barriers to serving on Boards and Commissions. Dr. Johnson said approximately 70 percent of current Board and Commission members completed the Bellevue Essentials program and approximately half of that 70 percent are people of color. He said the Boards and Commissions are currently receiving training regarding funding for equity.

The committee discussed their interest in exploring racial, social and economic equity as it relates to the makeup of the Boards and Commissions as well as the public they interact with and hear from during meetings and public hearings. Dr. Johnson said that Council liaisons to Boards and Commissions and department staff conduct the interviews before the Council votes to appoint members.

7. WORK GROUP UPDATES

(a) Strategic Planning

Chair Martinez said the strategic planning work group has not yet started meeting as work is underway to prepare the recommendations resulting from the community dialogue sessions held during the summer.

At 6:53 p.m., Ms. Martinez declared a break. The meeting resumed at 7:05 p.m.

8. NEXT STEPS

Chair Martinez led a discussion regarding the original objectives of the CCC Team and the accomplishments to date, noting that this will help to inform the development of the strategic plan.

The group discussed the following objectives:

1. Develop trust and awareness through dialogue.

2. Build racial literacy and skills through education and training.
3. Co-create recommendations and actions that will advance racial equity in our community.
4. Transform Bellevue into a community that values and commits to racial equity and eliminates systemic barriers and increase civic participation for people of color.

Committee members provided examples of how their activities, primarily the numerous community dialogues, have addressed those objectives to date.

Mr. Lauinger commended everyone for their involvement with the CCC Team and community dialogues.

The group talked about the important role of the City in creating safe, welcoming and belonging spaces for the community.

Mr. Lauinger said the CCC Team provides a good equity lens for the City.

Chair Martinez asked about the CCC Team's vision going forward.

Mr. Perezchica highlighted the importance of following through to see that policies and recommendations are implemented. Ms. Martinez agreed that that is crucial to maintaining trust with the community. She noted there are opportunities to partner with other groups and organizations.

Mr. Leiva-Rodriguez suggested holding community dialogues focused on different age groups, from youth to senior adults. Dr. Johnson spoke in favor of enhancing youth involvement in discussing and addressing equity issues.

Additional themes mentioned included investing in partnerships, expanding trust through communication, outreach to persons who work in Bellevue, CCC Team's role in facilitating trusting relationships between the City and the community, and additional community dialogues and meetings regarding policy implementation and impacts.

9. CLOSING

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

/kaw