

Equity Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 8, 2019

5:30-7:00PM, CoCreatz Building (2388 University Avenue West)

Important NOTE: These minutes use headers, an important way to make them accessible to people using screenreaders. As part of our commitment to equity, we will make every effort to ensure accessibility of our meeting minutes each month. We encourage other committees and the broader Council to do the same.

Attending

Melissa Williams, Melissa Pappas, Scott Simmons, Mindy Keskinen (currently as guest), Grant Abbot, Heather Humbert

Minutes

We opened the meeting with a welcome and introduction to each person attending, as it's a relatively new group. The participants represent a wide array of community and other engagement experiences related to equity, and we're excited about the diverse skills we'll have on the Equity Committee this year. Melissa Williams volunteered to be the non-board member co-chair for the committee; for the moment, Scott will be the board member co-chair, but that position may change as the committee settles into the work.

Year-End Review

Scott reviewed work that the Equity Committee has done over the past few years and the last year in particular:

- The annual community meal held at Seal in December or January
- Sunday Table (food donations from the community garden to Seal)
- SAP Box (in development)
- Data collection/community surveys related to a variety of issues, with a focus on reaching underrepresented community members
- TAP (Transit Assistance Program) support
- SNAP sign-up efforts
- Building a presence at multiple community events (like the Hampden Park Co-op sponsored summer movies, the Urban Growler farmer's market, etc.)

2019 activities

He then previewed activities related to the Equity Committee's mission, happening in 2019 but not specific to the committee:

- Ward 4's collaborative efforts toward renter outreach, likely starting in March
- Affordability study, starting in January
- Diversity training for the Community Council

Melissa Williams led us in discussion of our next steps as a committee. We unfortunately did not have a copy of the Community Council's 2018 goals, but we reviewed the 2017 goals (available on the website). One of the primary points of discussion was the importance of reviewing and updating the Equity

Framework and utilizing the Equity Scorecard across all council initiatives; we believe that this will be a major focus for Equity in the next year (standardizing our oversight role for the council as a whole regarding equitable action).

Concrete Next Steps

We then focused on three remaining items: determining the membership of the committee, determining a consistent location for meetings, and determining a February agenda so that we hit the ground rolling in the next meeting.

Committee Membership

As it currently stands, we believe committee membership consists only of the people who were present at the meeting (Mindy is involved in many organizations and is going to be a visitor rather than a formal member for the immediate future). There is at least one additional person who has expressed interest: Houa Moua, who lives at Seal. We're not going to focus on recruitment just yet; the goal for the present is to ensure that the current committee is on the same page.

Location

There was some uncertainty regarding the meeting location this week. We'd like to find a consistent meeting place in South St. Anthony Park for all meetings, and we've agreed that 5:30-7 on the second Tuesday of each month is the best option for meeting times. We're going to check on cost and availability for the following options: Seal Hi-Rise (Melissa Pappas), Dual Citizen (Melissa Williams), the SAPCC Office (Melissa Williams), JOTP (Melissa Williams), CoCreatz (Mindy Keskinen), U.S. Bank (Heather Humbert). There are pros and cons to each option, but our priorities are for the space to be

- Free
- Consistently available/easily findable
- Accessible to those with mobility challenges (physical or transportation-related)

We will announce the February location ASAP.

February Agenda

- Review 2018 Goals and write an evaluation to share with the Council
- Generate 2019 Goals
- Review and discuss Equity Framework
- Update on the broad events that Scott reviewed with us (see above)
- New Business (example: Mindy mentioned Local Dough, a local investment group looking to invest in worthy local projects that will foster a vibrant and equitable neighborhood)