

Equity Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 5th, 2019

5:30-7:00PM, Seal Hi-Rise (825 Seal Street)

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 Pappas, Heather Humbert, Melissa Williams, Scott Simmons

Minutes/Agenda (5:30-5:40)

- Racial Equity Action Plan Toolkit (from GARE)
- Equity Framework (shared via Google Docs). Kathryn will share the Equity folder with all of us.
- Start a calendar of Food Justice Events.
- Talk about reviews of documents (see above) or requests for equity reviews.
- Updates and Announcements

Racial Equity Action Plan Toolkit (from GARE) (5:40-6:00)

We received the Toolkit too late for the committee to review thoughtfully. It's our understanding that Kathryn is proposing this approach to equity and diversity training for the board and wants the Equity Committee to review and approve this as an option for the council. Our initial look seems positive; we like that the expectation is to use the review of the organization to create an action plan. However, we haven't had the chance to really review this extensive document in depth.

Equity Framework (6:00-6:20)

We received a copy of the updated Equity Framework on the day of our meeting; we walked through the framework together but need time to process it. We committed to working on substantive revisions and/or comments to be shared at least one week before next month's meeting. We will make revisions, approve the update as a committee, and submit to the board for review in April.

Calendar of Food Justice Events (6:20-6:30)

Food events in already happening the neighborhood

- Mayfest
- Movies in the Park (pre-movie, food-focused events)
- Annual Community Meal (post-harvest in the community garden, usually at Seal in December)

We have in the past also had a Community Conversation about food at Seal in May.

What else?

We talked about the possibility of having four, seasonal community meals instead of the one:

- Winter: Soup Dinner (co-op and other community organizations would sponsor. What about Finnish Bistro?)
- Spring: restaurant sponsored, possibly at U.S. Bank parking lot?

- Summer: National Night Out, but worked to expand invitations and knowledge of the event
- Fall: Harvest dinner (the one we always do, sponsored by Lydia Place and sponsors that Scott gets in)

Not an event, but hoping to assist Urban Growler Farmer's Market in becoming EBT enabled.

Reviews of documents or requests for equity reviews (6:30-6:45)

Unified Design Standards

We didn't have adequate time to review the Unified Design Standards through the use of the Equity Scorecard, but we did review on the fly in the meeting. Based on what we observed, these standards seem consistent with the priorities that the council has identified in our equity framework. Specifically, we really loved the section entitled "Approach to the Project." The recommendations for affordable housing requirements are great, too, but we were a little concerned about whether there was a priority indicated in the ordering of the "Unified Project Standards" (because things like historic preservation come first). If there is no priority in that order, we're fans! And finally, the emphasis on environmental standards in building is very much an equity issue when thinking about the health and future of the whole neighborhood. In summary, we are confident in supporting the Land Use committee's engagement with and potential adoption of this document.

Updates and Announcements (6:45-7:00)

Meeting times

We'd like to switch our meetings to the first Monday in each month (instead of the first Tuesday of each month). This just seems to be a better fit with the current committee members.

Membership

We received a letter of resignation from Grant Abbott, so we are down to four committee members. All of us are either in South or an organizational representative. We would like to see someone from North SAP join the committee. We're eager for recommendations for outreach.