



Equity Subcommittee

Tuesday, October 2nd, 2023

9:30-11am

City Hall Lobby, RM Tribal Room

[Meeting Link](#)

+1 323-618-1887

Phone Conference ID: 994 148 536#

TIMES GIVEN ARE AN ESTIMATE AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Land Acknowledgment & Welcome

9:30	Land Acknowledgement, attendance
9:35	Approve September Minutes
9:40	Share successes in life, work, or advancing equity
9:50	Council Liaison Update

Subcommittee Briefing Session:

10:00	Response letter- Standing for Belonging Move from Hate to Community	Sarah Dixit
10:10	Attendance, Chair and Vice Chair, Meetings over the next few months	Sarah Dixit
10:20	Budget Update – and Question	Matt Boston
10:40	Environmental Justice Equity Workgroup – Collaboration	Lisa Gardner

Standing Update(s):

	Recruitment, MCJCS Interview Panel, Language Access	
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11:00 Adjournment

- 1) Next Equity Subcommittee Meeting, November 7th, at 9:30am, City Hall, Tribal Room (1st floor)

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September 5th Equity Subcommittee Meeting

Attendance: Sarah Dixit (Chair), Stephanie Courtney (Vice Chair), Kiana McKenna, Josh Orozco, Jonathan Alder, KJ January

Staff: Alex Gibilisco, Ginny Ramos, Mark Carlos, Nicolette Ocheltree, Jeff Gunn, Nicolette Ocheltree

Land Acknowledgment

Approving May and August Minutes

John Alder moved, Stephanie Courtney seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Community Updates

John said that there are a couple of important ordinances to keep up with.

Stephanie updated that Shades of Motherhood Network has 12 doulas now and will be hosting a fundraiser at the Philanthropy Center. They have also received numerous awards for their work.

There was a Black and Brown art space during the Nuestras Raices Tacos and Tequila Festival. No-Li has reached out to Nuestras Raices for sponsorship for Tacos and Tequila.

Carl Maxey Center has a new Executive Director: Dr Shari Clarke. They will be celebrating Sandy Williams' Birthday and Life next Wednesday.

Dr Orozco mention the Whitworth event on October 5th when they will bring Brian Stevenson, author of Just Mercy to the Convention Center. The Universities and Colleges are working together to offer free tickets to their students and reduced rates to the community.

Spectrum LGBTQ2S+ Center is having Bingo Night October 5th at the Hive to raise funds for their building.

No Council Liaison Update because Councilwoman Wilkerson was helping open the Carla Peperzak Middle School.

Matt Boston, Council's budget manager presented on the 2024 Proposed Budget

-Boston shared some current funding statistics. He also shared the upcoming budget timeline starting on October 2nd and ending on November 27th.

-For more information please visit <https://my.spokanecity.org/budget> or contact Matt at mboston@spokanecity.org

Questions from the Subcommittee included:

Cultural Center Funds, Preventative Health Programs, Housing Programs, Resources that can help with the budget process. Another question was if any of the rainbow



crosswalks are planned to be put in places where there is a majority Black and Brown population “to break the narrative that only White people are queer.”

-Boston shared that the Subcommittee as a subcommittee of the Finance & Administration Committee can contact him for information and suggestions including translated materials and budget priorities.

Mayor Woodward’s appearance with alleged domestic terrorist Matt Shea:

Chair Dixit drafted a letter for the Subcommittee to consider. They will be holding a special meeting to finalize the language.

Good of the Order

It was suggested that the Briefing Center be used to promote the Equity Subcommittee and to recruit new members.

The Subcommittee expressed a desire to invite newly appointed Councilman Ryan Oelrich to a future meeting.

Next meeting will be November 7th at 9:30am via Teams and in the Tribal Conference Room at City Hall

On behalf of the Spokane City Council's Equity Subcommittee, we want to address last month's "Let Us Worship" event. As members of the Spokane community who represent and work with marginalized communities, we know that while it is important to make statements to call out hate when we see it happening in our city, it is vital to pair action with our words.

Because of the history of this event, the speakers, and the consistent messaging, we were not surprised or shocked by what unfolded that evening. For many communities, the connection that white supremacy has to religion and to institutions has been apparent and harmful for centuries. What we know is that rhetoric isn't harmless. It often sparks violence, and further alienates non-dominant members of our community.

While many media outlets and public outcry have focused on the elected officials and candidates who were present and participating at the event, we think it is vital to bring attention to the picture overall. Hundreds of people were present at the event. These people are our neighbors, our young people, our teachers, our first responders - all of whom interact with our diverse, multi-ethnic, beautiful community.

For a city that just adopted the new motto, "In Spokane, we all belong," events like this are why this motto feels largely inaccurate to communities of color, the LGBTQ2S+ community, the immigrant community, and others who don't feel at home and safe in Spokane. It is on each and every one of us, whether elected officials or private members in our organizations and businesses, to create a Spokane where we all truly belong.