



Minutes for June 5, 2023

Attendance: Sarah Dixit (Chair), Stephanie Beans Courtney (Vice Chair), Council President Breean Beggs, Council Member Betsy Wilkerson (Council Liaison), KJ January, Kiana McKenna, Justice Forral, Kiana McKenna, Jesus Torrez, Douglass LaBar, Nico, Howl, Madalyn

Staff: Alex Gibilisco, Mark Carlos, Ginny Ramos, Kelly Thomas, Garrett Jones, Lisa Gardner, Chris Wright

Approving May Minutes

May minutes were not available for this meeting.

Land Acknowledgment

Announcements

City of Spokane will be marching in the Spokane Pride Parade. All Equity Subcommittee members are welcome to join with their friends and family. The parade lineup will start at the Stevens St. Bridge at 11:30am

There will be a showing of "From The Ashes" tomorrow at the Magic Lantern which will also have an all day Black Maternal Health screenings including mental and physical health and referrals.

Spokane City Council inaugurated the Rainbow asphalt art Downtown. The community joined for the ceremonial first walk "Abbey Road" style to kick off Pride Month and then marched to City Hall for the proclamation.

Planned Parenthood tabled at Coeur d'Alene this past weekend. It went very well and wasn't as scary as last year because of added security from PJALs and other community that helped protect and support the event.

Council President Update:

Council President Beggs introduced Attorney Maggie Yates who will be joining Council as a contractor to help form the Municipal Law & Justice Coordinating Subcommittee. She was first hired by the Spokane County Government to implement the findings of Smart Justice Spokane with the Blueprint for Reform that was a grassroots movement and funded by a grant.

Attorney Yates lined out the process for establishing the subcommittee:

- Established formally through Municipal Resolution.
- Clear structure
- Purpose
- Responsibilities
- Data Sharing Agreement among members



There will be an executive workgroup comprised of the Chair and Vice Chair of the subcommittee along with the chairs and vice chairs of the several parallel workgroups working with them for increased transparency and shared vision. Goals include membership that is not just appropriate, but engaged and inclusive. Relevant sectors will be represented, all members will have voting power regardless of position. Community representatives receive compensation. Additional members can be added to work groups for subject matter expertise. Representatives from the Administration will be encouraged to attend meetings.

Service Providers that will be reached out to during this process include but are not limited to:

Victim Advocates:

- Domestic Violence Coalition
- Lutheran Community Services
- Mujeres in Action (MiA)

Business Community:

- Greater Spokane Incorporated
- Downtown Business Partnership
- Business Equity Coalition Inland NW

Public Health

- WSU Medical School
- Deaconess & Sacred ED
- Empire Health Foundation
- Better Health Together

Behavioral Health

- Frontier Behavioral Health
- Pioneer Human Services
- Compassionate Addiction Treatment

Housing/Homelessness

- Volunteers of America
- Catholic Charities

Disability Rights

- Disability Rights Washington

Racial Equity

- NAACP
- SCAR
- Native Project
- APIC (Asians for Collective Liberation)
- The Way to Justice

Impacted Individuals and Family Members

Faith Community

Health & Justice Recovery Alliance

Freedom Project East

Revive Reentry

I Did the Time

Peer Spokane



Carl Maxey Center
Latinos en Spokane
Spokane Tribe
Kalispel Tribe

An example of Municipal Justice Reform is when Mujeres in Action (MiA) represented a woman in court who needed translation services. The court allowed her more time in her testimony and arguments to allow for the interpreter to translate the court proceedings for her.

A question was asked about grassroots organizations being put in as part of a workgroup instead of being consulted as subject matter experts.

The Municipal Law & Justice Coordinating Subcommittee's reforms will be guided by data driven strategic planning including key decision point analysis or intercept mapping. It will also be guided by identifying relevant data points (quantitative & qualitative) and when possible, disaggregate data by demographic detail, including by race/ethnicity. Using data to identify trends, challenges, opportunities for policymaking.

Another thing that the subcommittee will lean on is community engagement by building relationships and partnerships with impacted communities and the community at large. This includes meaningful engagement to share information, solicit feedback, build relationships & sustain initiatives. It also includes:

- Townhalls/Community meetings that are child friendly and accessible.
- Surveys to generate wider participation including surveys with language accessibility.
- Public Comment that is straightforward/accessible

A long-term goal of the Municipal Law & Justice Coordinating Subcommittee is to establish an Office of Community Safety under the Mayor's Office.

- staff the Municipal Criminal Justice Coordinating Subcommittee
- guide holistic public safety investments, including social determinants of safety
- Ensure success of multi-year programs

Questions were asked about how to build trust with communities and trusted messengers and how to hold organizations accountable who refuse to share their data.

- Legal restraints compel groups to share data

There was a concern shared that community groups are seen as an afterthought rather than being consulted throughout the process. Attorney Yates shared her contact information with the group to have them help her co-create the subcommittee with community groups.

Another question is how to operationalize the findings of the subcommittee. Council President brought up how City Council passed a law about Border Patrol at the Greyhound Station and the then Mayor refused to enforce the law. The Attorney General then sued the bus companies for not following the law.



Council Member Zack Zappone shared his workplan with the subcommittee

He thanked the subcommittee for their work with City Council and said that their work is important especially since the Parks Ordinance is being voted on soon.

There was a question about the Councilman's work with youth and youth behavioral programs. He responded that there is \$3 million allocated to Youth Behavioral Health in ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) money.

- Councilman Zappone is working to ensure that they are culturally relevant
- This includes ensuring that funds go to organizations that aren't actively anti-LGBTQ+
- Some of the need goes outside of Council's purview and is legislated at the State level.

Another project that Councilman Zappone is working on are teen centers. He is planning roundtables with teen support groups including peer support groups. The idea is a space for teens with services and a place for teens to gather.

Members of the subcommittee and the young adults who were job shadowing Chair Dixit. Some ideas include activities that are accessible by public transportation and are after hours and on the weekends. A lot of teens either hang out at the park or in Downtown. They can't really afford parking Downtown.

Councilman Zappone encouraged the teen leaders to join leadership positions in citizen advisory boards.

One last thing that he shared was a law that he is working on with Councilman Bingle that would reduce minimum parking requirements for buildings so it would be easier to build more housing and bike routes. It also encourages people to use cars less, create more walkable housing developments and lessen the carbon impact on the Environment.

Final Announcements

This Friday, the Equity Subcommittee will be having a Why Race Matters equity training.

There will be no July meeting in observation of the Fourth of July holiday.

Next meeting will be August 1st at 9:30 via Teams and in the Tribal Conference Room at City Hall