



November 7th Equity Subcommittee Meeting

Attendance: Sarah Dixit (Chair), Stephaine Courtney (Vice chair), Jesus Torres, John Alder, KJ January

Staff: Council Member Betsy Wilkerson, Giacobbe Byrd, Ginny Ramos, Kelly Thomas, Nicolette Ocheltree, Lisa Gardner, Matt Boston

Land Acknowledgment

Approving October Minutes

John Alder moved; Jesus Torres seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Giacobbe Byrd, Director of Spokane City Council

Director Byrd introduced himself and explained the purpose of Council Rules and how they are set up to help the meetings run smoothly. He also explained how the Council as a legislative body works including subcommittees like this one.

It also has some wonky stuff like appeals and hearings that are required by State Law.

Open Forum is limited a limited open forum and is not a requirement. Bellingham's city council does not have an open forum.

-There was a discussion about why there are people who testify in Open Forum who aren't residents of the City. It was brought up that residents feel intimidated to come down to Council let alone when there are organized groups who come down to testify.

A concern was raised that Council Rules is a 20-page document and may be misinterpreted by someone who isn't proficient in American English because of how much legal language is in it.

Giacobbe will send a word version of the Council Rules for subcommittee members to redline to voice their concerns and feedback.

Council's Budget Director continued to present to the subcommittee about the Mayor's 2024 Proposed Budget.

He showed the subcommittee that they can go through the line items by visiting my.spokanecity.org/budget.

A question was brought up about how the budget is being created with an equity lens in mind. It was suggested that the subcommittee can ask the Mayor and her Administration in a formal letter about how they did that.

Equity Subcommittee Workplan

Alex presented Equity Subcommittee's 2023 in review.

Presentations included:



- Ongoing Budget Presentation
- Equity Framework
- Environmental Justice Equity Workgroup
- State Legislative Conversations
- Spokane Trends Demographic Data

Council members who attended were:

- CM Wilkerson
- CP Beggs
- CM Cathcart
- CM Zappone
- CM Stratton

Operationalize Items included:

- Adopted Bylaws
- Analyzed and provided feedback on Afterhours Park Ordinance
- Feedback on General Facility Charges
- Municipal Law & Justice Coordinating Subcommittee
- Highlighted community voices

The Subcommittee will work more on the Workplan at the next meeting.

Next meeting will be December 5th at 9:30am via Teams and in the Tribal Conference Room at City Hall