

EQUITY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES
City of Spokane
Equity Subcommittee
City Hall – City Conference Room Lobby - Tribal
09/17/25

Call to Order: 12:07pm

Attendance

Subcommittee Members Present:

Sarah Dixit, John Alder, Luke Cobin, Wendy Schatz

Not Present:

Sebastian Ruiz (notified), Naghmana Sherazi (notified), Kiana McKenna (notified), KJ January(notified), Patricia Castaneda, Tyler Tamoush

Staff Present:

Alex Gibilisco, Andres Grageda, Maren Murphy, Brandon Whitmarsh

Approval of Minutes

- Did not vote to approve August minutes

Agenda Items

Briefing Items

1. Conversation Subcommittee Update – Alex Gibilisco
 - No Action Taken, Discussion Only
 - Membership
 1. Council approved 4 new members, reappointed 4 members
 - Quorum
 1. 10 total members; we need 6 people to reach a quorum
 - Chair and Vice Chair Convo
 1. Reach out to Alex if you are interested in being the Chair or Vice Chair
2. Racially Disparate Impact Analysis – Maren Murphy
 - No Action Taken, Discussion Only
 - Requirement from HB 1220

1. Identify local policies and regulations that may have a discriminatory effect
 2. Identifies and implement policies and regulations to address and begin to impacts
 3. Identifies areas that may be at higher risk of displacement from market forces; and
 4. Establishes anti-displacement policies, with consideration given to historically impacted communities that have experienced displacement.
- Process and Methodology:
 1. Review previous engagement
 - a. Housing Action Plan, Fair Housing Plan, Shaping Spokane Housing Initiatives
 2. Analyze data
 3. Evaluate policies
 4. Revise policies and integrate into Comprehensive Plan
 5. Review and update regulations
 - a. Part of final preferred initiative
 - **Draft report available online at planspokane.org**
 1. Includes historic context & zoning,
 2. homeownership & housing context,
 3. neighborhood & education access,
 4. environmental health & climate vulnerability,
 5. displacement risk, and policy evaluation
 - Key Findings Include
 1. There is a persistent gap in homeownership rates for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color households compared to White households
 2. Exclusionary zoning enacted by the City of Spokane reinforced the impacts of redlining and racially restrictive covenants.
 3. Neighborhood access, income disparities, and housing affordability vary by race.
 4. Environmental health disparities reflect systemic disparities of historic disinvestment.
 5. Higher displacement risk exists in Central and Northeast Spokane, areas that have higher proportions of BIPOC and lower income households.
 - Housing Policy Evaluation: Questions for Consideration
 1. Is the policy effective in accommodating needed housing?
 2. Who benefits and who is burdened by the policy?

3. Does the policy provide vulnerable communities protection from displacement?
 4. Does existing terminology encode bias, racially informed presumptions or phrases that promote exclusion?
- Planning Department is looking for community feedback on the report, specifically from communities that are unfairly impacted by housing policies. What communities/organizations could be communicated with?
3. Equitable Budgeting – Alex Gibilisco
- No Action Taken, Discussion Only
 - Update
 - Organize Subcommittee Work
 1. What does Community engagement look like in budgeting?
 - a. Budget town halls in different districts or in different community buildings groups
 2. Defining terms in the equitable budgeting work.
 3. What kind of equitable budgeting would they like to see?
4. Community Engagement Conversation – Andres Grageda
- No Action Taken, Discussion Only
 - Proposed Resolution
 1. Community Days leading up to and during Town Halls and advertising them to the community that wouldn't normally hear about it
 2. Bring the process to where people already instead of asking people to come to City Hall
 3. Mandating community engagement for Council Members and/or department heads
 4. Education through 311
 5. Encouraging different departments to table during Community Days or other community events
 6. Personalize Community Days to the actual community to the actual community we're trying to target
 7. Asking the community what would be helpful to them instead of giving them what we think they want
 8. Setting aside a certain amount of money for community engagement events

Standing Updates

1. Council Liaison Update – CM Lambdin
2. Share Successes in life, work or advancing equity

3. Equity

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:26pm.

Next Equity Subcommittee Meeting, October 15th, at 12:00pm, City Hall, Tribal Room (1st floor)

Prepared by:

Andres Grageda, Legislative Assistant to CM Lambdin

Approved by:

Sarah Dixit
Equity Subcommittee Chair