

EQUITY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES
City of Spokane
Equity Subcommittee
City Hall Lobby, Tribal Room
02/18/26

Call to Order: 12:05

Attendance

Subcommittee Members Present:

Sebastian Ruiz (Chair), Naghmana Sherazi, John Alder, Kiana McKenna, Pat Castaneda

Absent:

Staff Present:

Alex Gibilisco, Andres Grageda (left at 12:57), Sebastian Pedinielli, Sarah Dixit (left at 12:40)

Others Present:

Approval of Minutes

- Voted to approve January minutes

Agenda Items

Briefing Items

1. Setting Milestones – Alex Giblisco
 - Long Term Items for the Agenda
 - Present to Council about what equity means and how it can be implemented
 - Kiana called for input from sub-committee members about definitions and key terms
 - What do members want to see out of the sub-committee
 - Establish road map for the sub-committee
 - Work alongside Council, specifically with budget in support of marginalized communities
 - Set achievable and concrete goals
 - Quarterly Meetings
2. Equitable Budgeting Process – Sebastian Ruiz
 - Survey

- Used to understand what the members of the sub-committee know, don't know, and want to know about the process
 - This will guide the conversation internally and when the body makes the pitch to Council on equitable budgeting
 - Will circle back next meeting when there are more results
3. Equity SC Learning on Budget – Alex Giblisco
- Kate Fairborne is requesting feedback on specific budget presentations
 1. Sub-committee members are most interested in a general fund and reserves presentation
 2. There is also interest in special reserves, state audit, enterprise funds, and who has control over setting budgets
4. Recruitment Kick-Off – Sebastian Ruiz
- Space for five more members
 - No applications yet but Pat and Kiana will announce at upcoming BEI meeting
 - Pat suggested the Alex create a blurb about what the sub-committee is all about
 1. Sebastian suggested the blurb be added to the website
5. Commitment to Outreach – Sebastian Ruiz
- What outreach strategies have members found useful and which of those could be used by the sub-committee
 - Social media as a form of outreach as well as the option for virtual meetings if people don't feel safe
 - Reach out to organizations, community leaders, and council as communication points
 - John suggested attending community meetings instead of asking community members to come to Council
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Standing Updates

1. Council– Sarah Dixit
- i. Asked for input from sub-committee members to weigh in on how new council rules can affect community participation
 1. Sebastian suggested an increased social media profile for Council to interact with the community
 2. Kiana suggested Council should outline what information they would like to hear from their constituents
 3. Pat offered that community members may feel hesitant to come to council meetings because there is unfamiliarity with who council members are

- ii. Sebastian P. brought up a constituent who met with him and CM Dixit about increasing inclusivity to neighborhood council meetings
 1. Sub-committee members agreed that the constituent should present at the March meeting and receive feedback on her proposal

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:27 PM.

Next Equity Subcommittee Meeting, March 18th, at 12:00pm, City Hall, Tribal Room (1st floor)

Prepared by:

Sebastian Pedinielli, Legislative Assistant to CM Dixit

Approved by:

Sebastian Ruiz
Equity Subcommittee Chair