

REIB City Council Committee Meeting
Oct. 15, 2024
5:30pm – 7:00pm
Sharon Bushor Room, 1st Floor City Hall and Zoom
Minutes

Attendance: Councilor Melo Grant, Chair; Councilor Gene Bergman; Councilor Becca Brown McKnight; Phet Keomanyvanh, Interim REIB Director, Mark Hughes, Pablo Bose, Christine Hughes

Meeting Start: 5:45pm

Motion to approve the agenda

Councilor Bergman motions, Councilor Brown McKnight seconds. Agenda is approved.

Motion to approve the minutes of [September 17, 2024](#)

Councilor Bergman motions, Councilor Brown McKnight seconds. Minutes are approved.

Public Forum

Mark Hughes invites the public to the REIB's Mission and Vision community conversation that will be at Richard Kemp Center on Sat. 19th at 3-5pm. Mark brought up the City's legislative agenda, and expressed collaboration with the City to work with the Racial Justice Alliance in issues as the Equal Protection Constitutional Amendment, the Reparations bill, the economic justice policy and also statewide police oversight. There was a discussion about charting the REIB and this opportunity is almost lost for it being the middle of October. Expressed that the resolution, dated 29, June 2020 and Racism is a public health emergency has been pushed off to the wayside like the work never existed.

REIB Updates

Reparations Task Force Report

Pablo Bose and Christine co-chairs of the Reparations Task Committee

A report was put together about what the task force has done to date and the background of the Task Force's charge. Looked at the overall landscape of reparations, some of the different forms it's taken and indicated some of the work that the task force had commissioned. Several of the studies of Burlington history and other relevant work. There has been turnover of the task Force members and with the REIB leadership. Also there has been very inconsistent engagement with the City Council itself. It's time to reinvigorate the process and re-engage with City Council. The Task Force wasn't able to carry out many of the charges due to all sorts of reasons, mainly because of the REIB leadership changes. The Task force was launched during COVID and now 4 years later past this charge of work. Access to the original funding that or started out with is not available and the committee members have not been paid their stipends out since the start. There's much more that can be done and ought to be done. Reading the original resolution it looks like time is essentially up because there is only 26

meetings that are allowed. This report has circulated with Task Force committee members in January and the preliminary recommendations that was included has been removed due to decision of being premature on majority of Task force members.

Actions for Nov. 19 REIB CC Committee meeting:

1. Phet to compile histories and processes of the Reparations Task Force and post them on the REIB website.
2. Phet to provide an update on stipends for Reparations Task Force members at the next meeting.
3. Phet to put together the next meeting of Reparations Task Force to discuss and prepare recommendations for next steps to present at the REIB CC Nov. meeting.

Mission and Vision Community Conversations

Phet shared upcoming community mission and vision community conversations will be on Saturday, October 19th from 3 to 5 Pm at the Richard Kemp Center and Thursday, October 24th 5 to 7 Pm. at the Burlington Electric Department in the Spark Space Conference Room and then Wednesday, October 30, th from 8 30 – 10am at City Hall in the Sharon Busher Room.

Empowerment Fund

The Empowerment Fund opened up October 1st and will close November 5. These funds are about empowering black and brown communities. We are making this accessible to people. You don't have to be a nonprofit. It's really uplifting and community building.

Community Forum

Councilor Grant had some ideas about engaging the gunfire task force and the new American Advisory Council that also talked about youth to give some advice in terms of how we could proceed with community safety. This would be a good community forum.

Nov. 19 agenda items

Status of the Reparations Task Force and potential funding needs.

REIB Committee to review and discuss preliminary recommendations from the Reparations Task Force and REIB Committee vote

Empowerment Fund applications update

Motion to Adjourn

Councilor Brown McKnight motions, Councilor Grant seconds.

Meeting adjourned

7:15pm

Minutes by Phet Keomanyvanh

