

REIB CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Sharon Bushor Room, 149 Church Street, 1st Floor, City Hall, Burlington, VT

Tuesday, December 17th, 2024

5:20 PM Meeting Called To Order

In Attendance

Gene Bergman, Melo Grant, Christian Berry, and Mark Hughes

Minutes

1. Motion to adopt the agenda.
 - a. Motion to adopt the agenda by Council Member Melo Grant,
 - b. Motion seconded by _____? (I am not sure who was speaking)
 - c. Unanimous pass
 - d. There aren't any October or December meetings uploaded so we will approve them in January 2025.
2. Mark expressed his congratulations to Christian on her new assignment and assured her of the community's support. He also mentioned that they had not yet reviewed the administration's [Memorandum](#) on the history of the REIB.
Re: Report on the background of the REIB
3. Melo on glanced at it, it exhaustive and it is a lot of work it for the Mayor to do a deep dive. Mayor Emma is very supportive of this work.
4. Interim Director Christian Berry provided Directors Updates on Community Engagement conversations around the Vision and Mission.
 - 1) Hired Maria Davies as the Administrative and Finance Coordinator, starting in January.
 - 2) Katie in Africa attending a wedding.
 - 3) Christian on her own for now.

Mayor's Office conversation:

- 1) **Clarity**- community wants clarity on the function of the office. We will do our due diligence to go out more into community. There is a mistrust in the community we need to address that.
 - 2) **Frustrations**- Folx thought that given the previous climate around previous director this was not the right time for these conversations.
 - 3) **More centering on blackness**. Getting away from diversity being a measurement to whiteness.
 - 4) **We were unable to meet with our Burlington Business Owner and Burlington School District**. Holding more of these conversations in the New Year.
 - 5) **City Council Member Melo Grant - Dr. Livingston presentation was amazing.**
5. Melo Grant encouraged about things happening around the city.

Next Steps

1. Melo Grant- What is the ETA to schedule the meetings with Burlington based business owners and school district? Christian indicated this will happen in the New Year.

2. Christian to follow up with IT to get the agenda and attachment back up on the website.
3. Christian to schedule additional vision and mission community engagement sessions with Burlington-based business owners and the school district after the New Year.
4. Christian to send an email to the Council about upcoming vision and mission community engagement sessions.
5. Christian to inquire if Dr. Robert Livingston's previous talk was recorded.
6. Christian to reach out to Town Meeting TV about potentially recording Ta-Nehisi Coates' upcoming talk. Melo Grant will promote this.
7. Christian to follow up with Emiliano about funding commitment for the Black Experience event. Phet and Emiliano spoke about possible funding. Christian will honor the funding.
8. Christian to finalize details for a potential luncheon with Ta-Nehisi Coates.
9. Christian to investigate creative ways to provide food at REIB meetings within city budgetary constraints.
10. Christian to look into holding future REIB meetings at community locations such as the Richard Kemp Center.
11. Christian to follow up with Mark Hughes regarding the status of his empowerment grant application.
12. Mark Hughes to send information about the Martin Luther King Gospel concert on January 20th to the committee.
13. Mark Hughes would like to figure out ways to better engage and entice the community to come out to these meetings. Community could be looking at Empowerment Grants. Catering meetings may be helpful.
14. Monday, January 20, Melo Grant's birthday.
15. Awarded 32 organizations in the community with the Empowerment Grant Funding.

Announcements

Mark Hughes- Game Night on Friday (12/20); Blackopoly, Saturday (12/21); Legal Clinic from 11- 1PM; MLK Gospel Concert Night (1/20).

History of the REIB. Melo on glanced at it. Place it on the January agenda.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, January 21, 2025, Sharon Bushor Room, 149 Church Street, 1st Floor. 5:30 PM- 7:00 PM

Meeting adjourned at 6:16 PM

Tuesday, December 17, 2024, 5:30 PM, Racial, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging (REIB)

REIB Burlington is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/97637329770?pwd=ZsbLQuFjbvv0XFhhuOSuhqgDYGFpoQ>.

1 Meeting ID: 976 3732 9770 Passcode: 079383 ---

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