



REIB City Council Committee

October 17, 2023 5:30 pm - 7:30pm

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

Attendance

Kim Carson	Phet Keomanyvanh	Ethan Fellows
Tayrn Maitland	Brian Pine	Ali Dieng, Chair
Ben Traverse	Will Clavelle	Lee Morgan
Melo Grant	Vincent Mitchell	Christine Hughes
Jared Pellerin	Virginie Diambou	

Minutes

1. Motion to approve the agenda
 - a. Moved to amend, switch New American Farmer Relief with Dewey Park Update on Agenda by Councilor Dieng
 - b. Unanimous approval
2. Motion to approve the meeting minutes [September 19, 2023](#)
 - a. Unanimous Approval
3. Public Forum
 - a. Lee: Thanked Committee for adding an agenda item and support.
4. New American Farmer Relief Funds and Ongoing Efforts
 - a. Initiative to support New American farmers who were impacted negatively by recent flooding. Collaboration between BWD and REIB. Worked with BPR&W and CVOEO.
 - b. REIB and BWD explained efforts to support local New American farmers which included support through both resources, farm space, and funds and it' positive impact on local refugee communities and hopes extend its activities into the winter season, including the possibility of constructing year-round greenhouses. Later on, Virginie Diambou from



CVOEO expressed thanks and support along with other Farmers who attended virtually

- c. The discussion revolved around strategies for empowering marginalized communities to take control of their farming spaces, furthering the goal of self-sufficiency and independence.
5. Update on Dewey Park- Embrace and Belonging Sculpture, IAA/Community Celebration
 - a. Phet from the REIB Department gave an update on Dewey Park with a presentation of the website. Information and updates on the park were translated into 8 different languages. BPR&W remains in charge of the physical park progress.
6. Discussion around 2024 Juneteenth and Okay-Okay proposal for services
 - a. REIB gave an update relating to the preparations for Juneteenth 2024. Process and preparation to begin earlier this year to secure funding. Proposal for OKAY-OKAY to be commissioned for the facilitation of Juneteenth due to their experience and success in previous years. Office to utilize sole-source argument as reasoning for their hire.
7. New hire and Hiring process update
 - a. REIB is currently in the process of hiring 4 program managers and a Data and Policy Manager with over 40+ applicants for all positions combined. Councilors expressed support, congratulations, and good luck for the process.
8. Discussion of Ward 4/7 Steering Committee Issues
 - a. Councilors addressed the need for more inclusive language in city documents and public communication. They also highlighted challenges and opportunities related to respecting preferred pronouns.
 - b. Councilors emphasized the importance of a well-defined grievance process to address any complaints related to unfair treatment within the community.



- c. Councilor Traverse expressed the need for cautious decision-making on issues related to free speech, pronoun usage, and inclusivity. He advocated for a balanced approach that respects diverse viewpoints.
 - d. Councilors clarified the usage of preferred pronouns, emphasizing that it is not about personal preference but rather about recognizing and respecting a person's gender identity.
 - e. The discussions highlighted the ongoing work to create a more welcoming and inclusive community that values diversity.
9. Community Forum
- a. Community members voiced both support, appreciation, and caution for the pronoun issue.
 - b. Farmers in attendance voiced appreciation for the efforts of REIB, CVOEO, and BWD.
10. Scheduling Next Meeting
- a. Skipping November meeting in consideration of pending projects, hiring and Thanksgiving. Next Meeting December 19th.
 - b. Suggestion by Councilor Dieng to change meeting to 1.5 Hours, 5:30-7
11. Motion to Adjourn