

**One Boro, Monday, March 7, 2022, at 5:30 pm**

**Virtual Committee Meeting**

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Meeting ID: 886 7423 2673

Passcode: 458739

Voting Members: Stacy Smallwood, Chair, , Vice-Chair, Jacek Lubecki, Secretary, Julie Pickens, Janice Cawthorn, Suzanne Shurling, April Schueths, Barb King, Que`Andra Campbell, Johnny Gamble, Freddie Hagan, Nandi Marshall.

Not present: Annie Hills,

Ex-Officio Members: Marcus Toole, Jesse Hartlett, Julie Chance, Deion Byrd, Jerry Bradley

COS Representative: Demetrius Bynes, HR Director

I. Call to Order 5:33 by the Chair

II. Roll Call

III. Approval of agenda

- A. Motion by: Janice
- B. Second by: Nandi
- C. Discussion: none
- D. Vote result: approved.

IV. Approval of previous meeting minutes (February 7, 2022)

- A. Motion by: Julie
- B. Second by: Janice
- C. Discussion: none
- D. Vote result: approved

V. Public Comments: This is an opportunity to address the Commission regarding concerns or ideas on any topic. To be considerate of everyone at this meeting, public comment will be limited to three minutes per person; total time allotted to public comment at this meeting is 20 minutes. Participants are to state their first and last name for the record. Comments that cannot be made within these limits should be submitted in writing to the One Boro Commission (oneborocommission@gmail.com). The Commission encourages civil discourse for everyone who participates in our meetings.

VI. Old Business

- A. City of Statesboro Report: Demetrius Bynes, HR Director

Demetrius: the City Council and Staff are hosting a Council Retreat to discuss the priorities with the Mayor and Council elected officials.

The next City Council meeting is also scheduled.

Youth Connect is officially open and the City is accepting applications from students. Applicants must meet certain criteria. Students will work for different City department and be exposed to the workforce and be prepared for life after graduation.

The City Council approved the policies for Housing Rehabilitation program.

Equity data were provided to One Boro, and, recently, follow up information was also provided to the relevant subcommittee. Stacy will receive this additional information.

Demetrius asked for comments and questions.

Que'andra asked a question about money set aside for the renovation process.

Demetrius responded with a further clarification of the application process for the funds.

Stacy had a question about the retreat: to your knowledge are there any items on the retreat agenda that affects One Boro work.

Demetrius is not aware of any specific items, but will inquire about them.

#### B. Equity Metrics Subcommittee Report: Janice Cawthorn

Janice: we received the reported data from Demetrius, which generated at least 9 follow up questions. The questions had mostly to do with how the data was gathered, and the nature of the data.

We saw evidence of progress with respect to equity and inclusion. Minority Owned Businesses data appear to indicated that 6% of government contracts were given to Minority and Female owned businesses, and we wonder how this number was reached, and how the ambitious goal of 20% will be reached.

Stacy asked a clarifying question about Janice's interpretations of the data. Janice responded.

Stacy asked a question about specifics of the bidding process and its equity component to Demetrius.

Demetrius responded reiterated the main points of the report.

Most contracts have to do with construction. The goal of reaching 20% MFB businesses are hard to achieve in that particular field of business activity, as few MFBs exist in the region.

Stacy wondered what "the region" is.

Demetrius is not sure what constitutes the region, but further clarified the process.

Stacy further shared what he knows about how the information about MFB preference is shared. He wondered whether One Boro could do more to spread the news about the preference.

Demetrius will inquire about the question. Pre-contract meeting are apparently not the most useful vehicle for spreading this type of information.

Janice: there are organizations who created lists of minority owned business. Can these lists be used in the bidding process?

Demetrius: we can make sure that these lists are used.

Stacy added more useful ideas to further the process. Suzanne seconded Stacy's points.

Suzanne further clarified that, for instance, Boro Pride is having a meeting, and the information about the preference program should be brought to community groups' (like Boro Pride) attention.

April: A further point – finding the Non-Discrimination Ordinance is very difficult.

Demetrius: I think that with the creation of a Purchasing Coordinator office we can indeed further spread the information.

As it comes to the Ordinance, indeed, the website is not the best, but the complaint process information can be found. Otherwise, the website will be overhauled. Please, give us feedback about how to make the Ordinance more visible.

Stacy posted a direct link to the complaint process materials: <https://www.statesboroga.gov/oneboro>

Janice: Does the City provide any training/workshop for those who want to submit a bid?

Demetrius: Once we have a person in the Coordinator position, this person can work on that agenda – so, this is prospective.

Janice: The subcommittee will be meeting in the next few weeks to finalize the report to the City.

### C. Training Subcommittee Report: Julie Pickens

The Subcommittee met. We discussed several issues to advance the committee agenda. Among others, we are looking at how other cities are furthering diversity training.

Stacy: are there any thoughts about re-engaging the training discussion – after COVID – the question was directed to Demetrius.

Demetrius: as COVID restrictions are lessening, the prospects for training events are getting brighter, but the process of reopening to more face-to-face interactions is slow.

Stacy: do we have any prospective vendor for training services, etc.

Demetrius: the vendor that we have is still travel-restricted.

The contract has not been awarded.

Julie: we are ready to proceed with the agenda as soon as things reopen.

### D. The Longest Table Subcommittee Report: Barb King & Julie Pickens

Julie: Barb and I discussed the prospects as of now. Spring 2023 is the likely date for the newest Longest Table. We hope for an event every 18 months, flipping between fall and spring.

We need to give our sponsors and participants the opportunity to get on our feet.

Nandi: I like the idea of flip-flopping between the seasons, and otherwise support her point.

Stacy: in terms of planning – when should the subcommittee should reconvene to start the planning process.

Julie, a lot will depend on the school calendar, but starting to meet late summer and early fall sounds most realistic.

### E. Violence Prevention Subcommittee Report: Suzanne Shurling & Johnny Gamble

Suzanne: our next meeting is Wednesday. We meet on Feb. 10.

The subcommittee split between several subcommittees based on functional division of work. Suzanne listed the subcommittees, many of them met, some did not.

Suzanne further discussed the technicalities of meetings and work of the subcommittee. Campus spaces and school spaces are good places for meetings and listening sessions. We need community input into the process of gathering information. We also need discussion facilitators and note takers.

Johnny asked about locations for events.

April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2 PM is a suggested date and for another events.

Demetrius will check if City officials will be available. The City can also help with finding the location.

Suzanne: asked for further clarification.

Demetrius: please, identify spaces preferred, and we will try to secure these spaces and work with the task force to secure these locations.

A discussion followed. Stacy clarified the essence of the process being collaborative.

Demetrius thought that the last event is a model of successful events to follow. He further elaborated how the City facilitates events, while the substance of events are left to One Boro.

Johnny: Our theme is to “go beyond the numbers” and talk about things that do occur.

Stacy: can One Boro do more to support the work of Violence Prevention Task Force?

Suzanne: We can definitely use note-takers and facilitators.

Stacy seconded Suzanne’s and Johnny’s points and thanked the subcommittee.

#### F. Workforce Development Subcommittee Report: Jesse Hartlett & Julie Chance

Jesse: We met and did a lot of work on our agenda.

Demetrius – is there any progress on public transportation

Demetrius: we are still in a holding pattern.

Jesse continued with his report. Our work is now more geared towards adults. We are also meeting with the Youth Commission Chair. We are trying to understand existing efforts in the community and not to duplicate them. Public transportation is clearly one of the key pieces.

Julie: Meetings with regional development authorities and partners in our work are the key.

Stacy: Tina Patterson with the Youth Commission is coordinating with us, and will be joining us on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Julie: we also talked about transportation.

There are new, exciting businesses and job providers are coming to our community. The Savannah corridor is being created. This opens new opportunities for youth training and employment, and poses new challenges for workforce development. Businesses will need quality applicants for the type of jobs that they are creating.

Janice: there will be summer youth work progress and transportation for these children is a challenge.

Julie: school buses are a potential transportation means, as they are not employed in the summer.

Jesse: a workforce development week as a social media campaign sounds like a good idea. This is about spreading information about it. Jesse asked for One Boro input on this idea.

Stacy: this would be similar to national public health week.

Stacy asked for One Boro input into the idea.

Julie: during that week we can also spread the news about the good work that the Subcommittee did.

Jesse: we will create an agenda, a sketch of ideas and ask for you all’s input and collaboration.

Janice: my suggestion is adding equity and inclusion as a part of the agenda.

Stacy summed up the idea. Perhaps each subcommittee should have a “week” for its agenda.

Jesse: Further elaborated on his ideas of a pilot program.

Stacy thanked the subcommittee and all subcommittees.

#### G. 2022 One Boro Retreat: Stacy Smallwood & Nandi Marshall

Stacy and Nandi met to discuss the agenda for the retreat.

Stacy: We need to be strategic and not overburden anyone.

At the same time, we need to meet in person.

Several agenda items were discussed.

For instance, should we reimagine our mission?

Each subcommittee chairs can also present a set of question to the entire One Boro.

Some ability to get to know each other and do some bonding and linking.

Then, the next big thing for us – what is the “big” idea after the previous ones: the Long Table, the Non-Discrimination Ordinance.

Stacy open opened to the input from the group. Any ideas?

Jesse: I like the idea of in-person for unity building.

Nandi: we need everyone's input about when to have the event.

Julie: if in the fall, then October? She justified the timing.

Suzanne commented (in the chat) about terms ending.

Stacy: we have 2 year terms.

So, on September 3 all the members are up.

Janice: we should do the retreat during the summer.

Marcus: perhaps a few weeks after September renewal of the body. If we have new members, the retreat will accomplish important purposes.

Nandi: perhaps an exit interview process for outgoing members will be important. Former members can also come to the retreat.

A general discussion of reappointment and renewal of One Boro followed.

Demetrius further clarified the process, which includes a vote by the City Council. Applications must be solicited, etc.

Stacy: please, feel free to email me or Nandi about the retreated

## VII. New Business.

Marcus: we should go back to face-to-face meetings. We are losing a lot by a lack of face to face contact.

Perhaps September should be the beginning of that coming back to face-to-face format.

Julie Pickens: March 31, Child-Abuse Bulloch and CASA will have a child abuse awareness month kick off around the Court House. Please, put it on your calendars.

Janice: I was diagnosed with Parkinson's. We are starting a Parkinson's support group, and a fundraiser. Outpouring of support for Janice followed.

Stacy: thanked everyone – we made incredible strides, and all this hard work is possible because we all do it. We have a lot to do.

## VIII. Motion to Adjourn

A. Motion by: Janice

B. Second by: Suzanne

C. Discussion: none

D. Vote result approved.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

The next meeting is April 4.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacek Lubecki

One Boro Secretary

Next Regular Meeting: Mon. 4/4/2022 at 5:30 PM

