

Minutes: One Boro Meeting.

June 7, 2021

5:30

Virtual meeting on zoom

Present: 14 people

Voting Members present: Stacy Smallwood, Vice-Chair, Jacek Lubecki, Secretary, Julie Pickens, Treasurer, Janice Cawthorn, Suzanne Shurling, Nandi Marshall, Barb King, Johnny Gamble, Que'Andra Campbell

Ex-Officio Members present: Marcus Toole, Jesse Hartlett, Julie Chance

COS Representatives present: Demetrius Bynes, HR Director; Intern: Zakiya Daniels

The meeting started at 5:34 pm, presided by Stacy Smallwood

Approval of the agenda:

Motion by: Janice

Approved by: Jesse

Approved: unanimous

Approval of minutes

Motion by: Janice

Second: Jacek

Discussion: none

Approved: unanimous

Public comments:

Stacy recognized a guest: Zakiya Daniels

I. Old Business;

1. City of Statesboro Report by Demetrious

Human Resources:

Statesboro Youth Connect program started its program today. There are 14 students participating and learning about the City government. A very diverse group of students was selected. We are glad to have a member of the Youth Commission.

City Manager hired one intern for the summer. Zakiya is the intern and assist the Manager. She is present at this meeting

City Clerk also hired one intern.

The budget for the new fiscal year was approved.

Human Resources – I am still down one employee, and we are going through some candidates.

Stacy: what position is it?

Demetrious: it is the City HR Safety Coordinator. We are going through the candidates right now.

As it comes to One Boro business, I reached out to relevant officials regarding the City Non-Discrimination Ordinance.

Demetrious is open to questions.

Stacy: Is it premature to discuss some of the ideas regarding the City Non-Discrimination Ordinance

Demetrious: Many of us believe that the City website needs to be overhauled. We are waiting for the new budget to kick in to start the work on that process.

Clearly, the website can be leveraged to promote the non-discrimination ordinance. More ideas can be discussed.

Stacy encouraged other questions to Demetrious.

With no further questions, Stacy thanked Demetrious for his report.

2. The Community Garden ad hoc committee

Stacy: at the last meeting we discussed many factors at stake. It would be good to have some updates regarding the committee. Marcus.

Marcus: We have not received the grant, so we decided to proceed with the existing resources. We have some land, and we would love to get an oversight of the site and get some volunteers to start the work, and coordinate with volunteers and Councilwoman Paulette Chavers.

In response to a question, Marcus delineated basic ideas regarding the future community garden. It is to be a place where community members can grow their own food, and can also serve a place of community integration.

Stacy second the discussion: the community garden has to involve community itself managing it and defining its purposes.

More description of the technicalities of the project followed. The role of Habit for Community was discussed.

Marcus: Many of the issues need to be discussed with Paulette.

More discussion followed regarding the communal nature of the garden and questions of community involvement.

Marcus: obviously, technical and logistical issues require technical and logistical support.

Zakiya asked a couple of questions about the project.

Marcus discussed different models of community gardens. Some models involve paid staff and require extensive funding.

Stacy: I welcome all input into the project. Please, if you know anyone or if you are interested in contributing, please, let us know. Marcus, please, report on your meeting with Councilwoman Chavers and when the meeting will happen.

Barb: Should we perhaps reach out to the Cooperative Extension Services.

Stacy: Julie Pickens also mentioned the Center for Sustainability and Office of Leadership Community Engagement at Georgia Southern

Julie: Another stakeholder is the School District.

Stacy: the plan has to be there in the first place.

3. Equity Matrix Subcommittee.

Stacy called on Janice, but her connection froze up. Stacy reported instead on the meeting of subcommittee which took place last week.

Stacy: We will be in connection with different authorities in the City to gather equity information. We are actively thinking about the proper metrics gathering techniques.

Demetrious: there is no additional feedback at this point

Stacy: we are anxious to document the progress that we are making. Our reporting procedures are ahead of the curve.

Zakiya asked a question about the equity metrics. Stacy responded, summarizing the measures taken so far.

Janice rejoined the meeting and further discussed the issue of equity metrics and the data gathering methodologies.

4. Training Subcommittee Report. Julie Pickens

Julie turned over the report to Jesse after her introduction.

Jesse: We met with Great Dane representative and discussed their experience and resources with regard to equity training. The person in charge at Great Dane offered their internal resources to us.

Marcus: I have a question to Demetrious. Does the City have a contract regarding equity training?

Demetrious: there is no contract. There is a conversation about the contract. We have not moved forward on any procurement processes.

More discussion of the training followed. The City Manager recommended a company from North Carolina, and has a plan to utilize them.

Janice: Our concern was the cost of it. If I remember correctly the cost was thousands of dollars per person.

Demetrious: My understanding is that the company offers great quality and long-term training and the relationship.

At the same time, no specific decision was made yet, and no specific procurement decision made.

Julie: Has there been any discussion about having an equity and inclusion officers. This might be more efficient than annual training.

Demetrious: so far no discussion. The only department to receive extra funding is the firefighting.

A lively discussion of the different options regarding training followed.

Demetrious: these are all valid points. Covid created new dynamics and pretty crowded agenda for the City.

Stacy: We are aware of the constraints, and what to support the City's work.

4. The Longest Table: Barb

Barb: no news. Later Julie and I will work on furthering the work of the subcommittee.

5. Violence-prevention Task Force

Suzanne: there is over 20 applications to be a part of the task force. The initial meeting will take place soon.

Stacy: we have examples and recording of other task forces in other cities

6. Workforce development subcommittee

Julie Chance: Michael Powell came to us to talk about work-based programs based in our 3 high schools. We talked about that, and what we have learned in our subcommittee meeting.

During the next meeting we will the Bulloch County workforce development plan, and we will discuss the way of going forward.

Stacy chimed in to the report.

Julie Chance: On Sept. 24 we will have a special community meeting about the Bulloch County workforce development plan and ideas. Relevant community officials and leaders will come.

The goal is to create structures that will survive changes in personnel.

Julie further discussed the specific ideas. Please, also consult the information folder posted on google drive.

Stacy thanked Julie Chance and Jesse for their leadership on this area.

II. New Business:

Stacy: April and I wanted to discuss the Smithsonian "Bias within Us" exhibit. We are asked to potentially co-host this opportunity. We will discuss it.

Any other new business?

Announcements:

Stacy: Juneteenth is coming. There will be celebrations in Brooklet and Portal. In Brooklet it is 10-12 am.

Tormenta also has a special game on that day.

Marcus: Any information about the status of Boro Pride?

Suzanne: Tormenta will try to co-host extra events this summer.

October 9 is the big event.

Julie Pickens: We met with folks with UGA regarding employment of people with disabilities.

Demetrious: Next Friday is a City Holiday in recognition of Juneteenth

Stacy: Our next meeting is on July 5th. Do we need to potentially reschedule?

Janice: how about the third Monday in July?

Stacy: this could be an option.

Jesse: it should be possible, as long we reschedule the workforce subcommittee meeting.

Stacy: motion to adjourn

Second: Janice

Approved.

The meeting ended at 6:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Jacek Lubecki

One Boro Secretary