

Virtual One Boro Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 6, 2021, at 5:30 pm

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

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

COS Representative: Demetrius Bynes, HR Director

I. Call to Order: Stacy called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

II. Roll Call: Quorum present

Voting members absent: Annie Hills

Ex-Officio members absent: Saba Jallow, Deion Byrd, & Jerry Bradley

III. Approval of agenda

A. Motion by: Janice

B. Second by: Julie

C. Discussion: none

D. Vote result: approved

IV. Approval of previous meeting minutes (November 1, 2021)

A. Motion by: Janice

B. Second by: Freddie

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 is aware of the deadline for data for the metrics. He thinks that the deadline will be met.

He will be visiting the Board of Education to connect with work-based learning teachers.

Mr. Penny was unable to join the meeting, but he will be scheduling a meeting with the chair and vice-chair of One Boro.

This coming Saturday there is a vaccine clinic at the City Hall, where all over the age of 12 can get vaccinated.

Stacy encouraged everyone to get vaccinated.

Stacy opened the forum for questions.

Stacy requested input from One Boro members for the meeting with Mr. Penny. He encouraged One Boro members to email questions to be potentially addressed to the City Manager.

B. Update on the audience with the Mayor and the City Council (a working session) by Stacy and Nandi.

Stacy provided a report on the session with Mayor and the City Council. The tone of comments were very positive on the work of One Boro.

Nandi thanked Stacy for being a great leader.

C. Equity and Metrics Subcommittee

Janice: we are waiting for the metrics from the different City departments.

Stacy reaffirmed that the report will be officially available.

Janice: What is the status of the City's website with regard to One Boro agenda?

Demetrius: There has been a conversation about the issue, but we have not moved forward with the work on revising the website. Nevertheless, there are efforts in this respect.

Janice: Thank you for your persistence.

D. The Training Subcommittee

Julie Pickens: We have met a couple of times. We are looking at other cities as a model for this type of training. Hopefully, we can report at the next meeting.

Stacy: Thomas Bowie (intern) has done a lot of good work. Also, Augusta just passed a non-discrimination ordinance, similar to ours. Demetrius, any updates on in-person training.

Demetrius: I am sure it will be discussed soon.

E. The Longest Table

Julie Pickens: Barb and I will meet about the issue. Otherwise, we are waiting for the COVID-19 situation to evolve.

Barb: The meeting should happen in January.

F. The Violence Prevention

Suzanne and Johnny: The next meeting will happen in January. We are waiting behind the scenes to prepare the meeting. Facilitated group listening sessions are on the agenda.

Stacy added detail about some potential new information and community partners that might be interested in the issue. Statesboro Youth Commission might be interested.

G. Workforce Development Subcommittee Report: Jesse Hartlett & Julie Chance

Julie discussed the latest event sponsored by the Subcommittee. Some of the examples and collaboration ideas are clearly finding a follow-up. The Discovery events are also important. The business and industry showcase for 9th grade students were involved and many students responded to our survey. Overall, the Discovery events are proving to be very useful for workforce development. She discussed other events that expose high school youth to the work of employment and workforce preparation.

The January event is the Workforce Development Partnership involving state-level visitors. The important aspect of these events is mutual communication and exposure to the initiatives.

Jesse: January 21st is a Friday, which should contribute to better attendance at the event.

Julie further discussed the importance of attending these events.

Stacy thanked Julie and Jesse for their work, and praised the agenda for upcoming events. He encouraged One Boro members to attend these events. He will widely circulate the information.

Julie: it is very important to show our best face at these events. This might secure funds for economic development for the entire County.

Stacy: at the City Council work session, Ogeechee Tech reps discussed their training facility. They are proposing a creation of a new training center that would more than double the existing capacity.

Secondarily, public transportation issue was discussed. The plan was delayed due to delay in vehicle delivery.

Demetrius: we are still waiting for the vehicles.

III. New Business

A. Statesboro getting rated by the Human Rights Campaign

Stacy explained the issue. Essentially, the HRC rates municipalities on their equity, etc. metrics. Since we put our policies into practice, there has been a discussion as to whether we should perhaps submit ourselves to rating. To be rated, one has to volunteer to do it. Stacy will send a link to recent HRC report, so that we can examine it, and see whether we want to get engaged in the process.

Stacy: if anyone present is familiar with the process, please, share it with us.
They also rate mostly major cities. Perhaps we do not qualify.

Nandi: I would like to explore the process, and, if we can participate in it, let's do it. We could also use the HRC metrics to conduct a self-study.

Stacy: clearly the metrics Subcommittee agenda has a lot to do with this issue. Janice, please, let us know what you think. I can follow up with you afterwards.

Stacy: any other new business?

January 3rd, 5:30 pm is the new meeting.

Barb will be travelling, but
Stacy wished everyone Happy Holidays and thanked them for their hard work.

VIII. Motion to Adjourn, 6:10 pm

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

Next Regular Meeting: Mon. 1/3/22 at 5:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted by Jacek Lubecki, One Boro Secretary