

One Boro, Monday, May 2, 2022, at 5:30 pm

Virtual Committee Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting ID: 886 7423 2673

Passcode: 458739

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

Absent: Julie P.

Quorum was called at 5:32 PM by the President Stacy Smallwood

I. Call to Order was called at 5:32 PM by the President Stacy Smallwood

II. Roll Call

III. Approval of agenda

A. Motion by: Janice

B. Second by: April

C. Discussion:

D. Vote result: unanimous

IV. Approval of previous meeting minutes (April 4, 2022)

A. Motion by: Janice

B. Second by: Nandi

C. Discussion:

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

Demetrious: the traditional Council meeting is tomorrow at 9 am. There will be a discussion of a senior housing project. There will be discussion of a new budget, at 3 pm. The housing rehab program is in motion and new applications will be accepted.

Demetrious also discussed other issues.

Stacy asked for comments and questions. He thanked Demetrius for the report.

B. Equity Metrics Subcommittee Report: Janice Cawthorn

The Subcommittee has met at least twice since the last full Committee meeting. The Subcommittee had an extensive discussion.

Several information items are still waiting for responses from the City departments. Janice urged the relevant city officials to provide information to the Committee. Given the lack of information, the Subcommittee decided to extend the deadline for the City officials to respond. She would like to have the information provided within the next two weeks.

A discussion followed. Janice reiterated the point that several city departments did not respond to the Subcommittee inquiries, and that the Ordinance requires all City departments to respond. The reporting period is since November 2021.

A followed up discussion firmed up that the relevant reporting period started on November 1, 2021.

Demetrious expressed frustration – he thought that he provided everything that was needed. To his knowledge he provided everything that was requested and required by the Ordinance.

Janice asserted that only Purchasing, Police Department and Planning data were provided, while more was needed.

Stacy tried to clarify the source of discrepancy and asked Demetrious and Janice to stay after the meeting to clarify what precisely is still needed.

C. Training Subcommittee Report: Julie Pickens

Julie Pickens is unable to join us this evening. No movement on that

D. The Longest Table Subcommittee Report: Barb King

There is nothing new from the Committee. We will start planning for the Spring closer to August.

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

The meeting is coming up next week. We are waiting for availability dates for Mayor and the City Council. There were also some discussions with the Mayor.

Suzanne would like to discuss as specific policing incident that happened in her neighborhood.

The event is being scheduled. YMCA is a potential venue. This has been approved by the City.

The committee would love to have some help.

The research questions that were submitted do not lend themselves to Facilitated Listening Group sessions. The question are excellent for a long term study of security of Statesboro.

Demetrious has an update on the potential date for Securing Statesboro (Stacy).

Demetrious: June the 4th is the best time for the elected body. We need to make sure that relevant parties are all in consensus.

Suzanne: there is no way we can do this date. It is too short a deadline.

Demetrious: what type of a date do we have in mind. July, August or September?

A discussion followed. A consensus was reached that having a selection of dates is best. Likewise, selection of people to attend the event was discussed.

Stacy appealed to committee at large to support the work of the Violence Prevention Task Force subcommittee.

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

There was a meeting on the 18th of April. A report on activities in surrounding counties was delivered. These activities focus on high school youth.

Julie: a big concern is a shortage of labor in the community. The entire economic development of the Coastal area depends on this critical dimension. Julie discussed several points that pertain to this issue.

Another issue discussed is reentry into workforce of former inmates.

Work-based learning is a crucial bottle-neck – getting students into the labor force pipeline is difficult, but crucial. Increasing high school graduation rates is also crucial.

Focus on the youth is crucial. Both high school students and college graduates are important, and facilitating their transition into the workforce is crucial. All counties and businesses/sectors should work together and to what is best for the youth and the economy. This is not a competition but a cooperative activity.

Workforce development week was also discussed. Opportunities such as dual enrollment were emphasized. The ability to channel youth towards meaningful jobs and careers is crucial. The role of local educational institutions is to be emphasized.

Jesse: the returning citizens is a big gap in the workforce as a whole. We really need to work on that issue.

Julie: youth labor-force integration and reintegration of returning citizens are two separate issues in terms of promotional event.

Stacy/April: an initial thrust of the former workforce commission was reintegration of returning citizens into workforce.

Marcus: from my experience separate events work best, when returning citizens are concerned.

Stacy thanked the Subcommittee for its work. He asked April to perhaps bring into discussion names of people who were involved in the original discussion of reintegration of returning citizens.

Jesse and Julie welcomed that initiative.

Johnny: I feel uncomfortable about distinctive events for returning citizens – doesn't it continue their stigmatization.

Marcus: I am concerned about young people – and the young people's reaction.

Johnny: I understand if there are former offenders against children present at an event where children participate.

Janice: is there is 18 year limit on employment a factor – and does it have to do with state laws?

Jesse: the issue is really insurance and liability for companies. We are trying to work with some companies on that issue. Jesse discussed the issue in some detail.

A lively discussion of limits on employment of minors followed. Several speakers emphasized limits on minors' employment that have to do with legal and monetary limitations.

Suzanne: I remember that originally the issue was focused on both veterans and former prisoners. The term is neutral, let's keep it neutral and inclusive.

Janice: my preferred term is "returning workers."

Freddie: I am torn between both points of views. The term returning citizens is nicely ambiguous, but we owe transparency to event participants.

Jesse: The issue of simultaneous presence of youth and returning citizens at the same event has a lot of dimensions, and is not easy to solve. The bottom line is addressing the needs of both of these groups, but the needs are different, so at least a functional separation seems to be a necessity.

Stacy thanked the Subcommittee and encouraged questions and ideas from the entire Committee.

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

Nothing new to report, but items on new business pertain.

VII. New Business

Stacy: All of the voting member are slated to roll off on September 1. Perhaps new short terms can be considered.

Demetrious: Caine discussed legal term options with me. The precise modality by which current members can be reelected or renewed is yet to be clarified.

Stacy: we need involve community members into a process of applications for potential membership.

Janice: didn't we discuss some of it when we incorporated new voting members?

Stacy: I do not see it in past documents.

April: we talked about a need for institutions of continuity and rotation, but we never solved the issue. The ordinance, so far, has only a flat 2 year term for everyone.

Suzanne: perhaps voting members can step back into membership at large, while new members will take over executive functions. She further discussed the issue.

Stacy: I think this would be a helpful solution.

Barb: Let's have a more permanent solution. Staggering, though, would help with institutional continuity.

Marcus: the new Green Commission has two types of members; one year and two year members, which creates precisely the continuity mechanism that we are discussing.

A discussion followed.

Stacy: Can Cain provide us with a simple institutional/legal tool to address the issue. Coming back to the question of promotion of One Boro. How should we best promote it? What would be best way to assure the representative character and expertise that we should embody?

Demetrious: a press release to be submitted to various media, and to be discussed at the Council meeting would be, I imagine, the best way to proceed.

Suzanne: besides the press release, let encourage the Herald to do a story about us, which will also include an appeal for membership applications.

Marcus: I think it is a great suggestion. A story on the work of the workforce subcommittee would be a great bait for the press.

Suzanne: we can also brag about Statesboro, and, especially, the Anti-discrimination Ordinance. We can link to the specific history of One Boro and Mayor McCollar.

Stacy: these are all great ideas for bringing out the story of One Boro and encouraging new membership.

Stacy further elaborated on the necessity for personnel transition and for bringing fresh blood to One Boro. Ultimately, the City decides, but we can have some great candidates for them to consider.

We have some great anchor points for the media stories.

Janice: I encourage student membership.

Suzanne: should we consider high school students/junior members?

Johnny: where are we on the buses? On the garden?

Demetrious: it is a supply chain issue on the buses.

Marcus: the garden is under construction. YMCA is starting a community garden.

VIII. Motion to Adjourn at 6:50

A. Motion by: Janice

B. Second by: Suzanne

C. Discussion:

D. Vote result: yes.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Next Regular Meeting: Mon. 6/6/2022 at 5:30 PM