Minutes of the Special Committee on Racial Equity Meeting
Bronx Community Board 8
January 9, 2025

Meeting Recording

Attendees:

Committee (5): Margaret Della (Chair), Bob Bender, Kelli Buford, Sebastian Chittilappilly, Caesar Tobar-Acosta

Absent (1): Adiana Rivera

Community: Carol Johnson, Barbara Kail

The Special Committee on Racial Equity (SCRE) meeting began at 7:04 pm, and the Chair welcomed the community to the meeting. A quorum was present, and the November 2024 minutes were approved unanimously.

The committee discussed the following areas:

- Translations made by Margaret to the Bronx Community Board 8 Resources to Cope with and Combat Hate (Spanish, Bengali, Chinese Simplified, Korean) with the goal of having those documents put onto the board. Questions arose about how people would actually find the other versions of the documents. We could list the multiple languages below or have a hyperlink at the top of the document. We could also have QR codes that would go to the different pages
- Conversations around prototyping the flyer (TOGETHER, WE CAN FIGHT HATE AND DISCRIMINATION) came about. It can be used as a template and model for the community board. Should we make it short and succinct?
    - The flyer as is looks good
    - One of the important things to look at are the differences between social media
    - Carol Johnson: Less is more. Having a flyer that is more succinct is better. Small information with the QR codes
    - Barbara Kail: A shorter punchier title with more of a call to action.
    - We can try different versions of this flyer and track which one is better. We can count how many visits as well
- Conversations around having a three digit number to report hate. Having something similar to 311 allows for the aggregation of this data for greater use.
    - There was a speaker who was supposed to speak at the September meeting who was supposed to speak about what engenders hate. There is something to think about human psychology
    - Filing a Report with OPHC
- Community Event: We spoke around events around food and intergenerational activities and coming together with the purpose of community conversations. Could be a piece of art or a sign such as “What are the expression of love?”
    - There have been a lot of changes with the youth planning. Are the Youth and the Education chairs able to merge their events in order to bolster their work around?

    - Are we able to do an event with WE ARE THE BRONX as they are focused on hate?
    - One of Margaret's colleagues recommended Living Room Conversations, which had different topics with primers. It is about listening and going into the conversation. Would it be possible to host this with the community board itself?
        - We can bring it up either to replace the community board or to
        - For this, we would want someone to moderate and facilitate the conversation - Living Room Conversation does not currently do Civic Groups
- HHSS are looking to have some speakers related to mental health. Are we looking to have a joint or do we want to jump into it?
    - Would like to partner with HHSS
    - Additionally to look and partner with Public Safety
    - Any other entities that we would want to
- Circling back, EEOC has information around employment statistics, enforcement and litigations statistics
- Additional comments on a number of corporations removing DEI offices
    - "Vote with your pocket book" dialogue
- Diversity and inclusiveness are a part of the budget request, and equity is a main staple of the priority list.
    - It should be highlighted at the next full board that the previous have been mapped
    - We are soon to receive the feedback from the City about the priorities

The committee agreed upon the following next steps:

- Margaret to tinker around with the flyer, making it pithier and to add the QR code
- Bob Bender to draft a resolution to be reviewed
- Margaret to talk with Julie Reyes to get her feedback
- Bob Bender to reach out to Rabbi Kaplan about WE ARE THE BRONX

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Minutes submitted by Margaret Della, Chair, Special Committee on Racial Equity