

MEETING MINUTES

July 21, 2020

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RACIAL EQUITY (“SCRE”)

PRESENT:

SCRE: Rosalind Zavras, Chair; Bob Bender, Margaret Della, Bob Fanuzzi, Daris B. Jackson, Julie Reyes, and Jyll Townes.

CB 8: Laura Spalter, Chair; Lisa Daub; Secretary, Sylvia Alexander, Eric Dinowitz, Margaret Donato, Nick Fazio, David Gellman, Marvin Goodman, Robert Jacklosky, Charles Moerdler, Omar Murray, Karen Pesce, Camelia Tepelus, Julie, Martin Wolpoff, Steve Froot

Guests: Constance Barnes-Watson, Kiana Diaz (Office of Ydanis Rodriguez), Elizabeth Dwyer, Jacki Fischer, Pat Hill (Councilmember Cohen), Samuel Liedtka (Office of Assemblyman Dinowitz) Chris Nash, Francisco Ramirez (Office of Gustavo Rivera), Raquel Reynoso, and Andrea Whited. Also not clearly identifiable was “Sv”.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10.

The Chair welcomed all participants and began with a (displayed) review of a document, entitled “Agreements,” to introduce the meeting given the potentially sensitive nature of the discussion (see attachment 1).

Agenda Item 1: “Cadence of the meetings”

The SCRE members decided that the SCRE would meet on August 4, August 18, August 25 and present the first Interim Report to the Community Board 8 Executive Committee on August 28 prior to the first Executive Board Meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Establish an Outline for the Interim Report

The Chair shared the draft outline of the Interim Report (see attachment 2) and the SCRE and the other participants of the meeting began to discuss the sources of data that are necessary and available for the future work of the Committee and the individual members’ review of the data including the impact of the ongoing current Census (an equity issue in itself and the need for census outreach before the October 31st outline), the American Community Survey, City Planning data, the data regarding rent-burdened households within the Community Board; the need for a framework for engagement of members of the Community Board, Committees and the community that is served by the Community Board; and setting forth the methodology of the SCRE. There were also discussions of potential areas of future specific initiatives, including:

- public housing as a relevant social equity and racial justice issue and how private 3rd party leasing impacts tenants in public housing (Charles Moerdler);

- tally how many committees SCRE members were/had been a part of so that we could readily suggest/infuse the racial equity initiatives into those committees (and determine what committees were not inclusive within our own group);
- senior services; and
- education equity as an area of focus, and a discussion of the composition of Community School District 10 and Community Council 8 and District 75 (special services) students (Andrea Whited, Nick Fazio, Daris Jackson).

The Chair emphasized that the work of the SCRE extends to each committee, so that we should be examining the areas of our standing committees such as housing, health, education and the Chair encouraged participants to share and send information to the Community Board Office. The SCRE then divided the work into “chapters,” Chapter one being the first three items of the draft interim report:

- Background and initial steps, including historical context of community board and its role and relation to other City agencies (Bob F, Jyll and Margaret)
- Goals and objectives, including future structure of committee and Community Board 8 role and function (Roz and Julie)
- Committee framework and methodology (Bob F)
- Data and demographics (Bob B, Daris) – NOTE: this will probably not be included in ‘Chapter 1’

The SCRE then agreed to share this information by Friday, July 31 to edit within the subcommittees in preparation for the next meeting on August 4.

Agenda Item 3: Review of Proposed Frameworks

There was a discussion of draft frameworks that had been previously submitted by SCRE members Della, in which she emphasized recruitment efforts, and Townes, which will be used as frameworks for future work of the subcommittees.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.