



**RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**April 17, 2024 (6:30 P.M.)**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES:**

Checked boxes indicate present. Unchecked boxes indicate absence.

*Community Members:*

Shane Lloyd  Jared Hautamaki,  Sonia Canzater  Isaac Cudjoe  Pat Grant  
(Chair),  Tasnuva Khan  Gustavo Torres

*County Staff Members:*

Selena Mendy Singleton (Parliamentarian)  Anthony R Alston  Shawn Bartley  
 Betty Lam  Willie Parker Loan  James Stowe  Aisha Williams (Botten)  Lt.  
O'Neill

**Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice Staff:**

Tiffany Ward

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 by Dr. Pat Grant (Chair)

**AGENDA**

- No objections. The agenda was adopted. With the addition of a discussion about a Youth Mental Health Workshop

**MINUTES**

- The March 20, 2024, minutes were approved.

**AGENDA ITEM 1**

- **Item: RESJAC Retreat:** The original date that was proposed was April 27. Many members could not attend on a Saturday. Five members voted. The recommendation from the executive committee is to hold the retreat during the June Meeting. Currently, the meeting is scheduled for June 19, 2024. Being that this is Juneteenth we will need to look at another date. June 12 and June 26 were possible dates. This will be an in-person meeting at EOB in Rockville from 6 pm – 9 pm. The motion was properly made by Gustavo Torres and seconded by Isaac Cudjoe to hold the meeting on June 12. The motion was approved 10-0.

## AGENDA ITEM 2

- **Item: Palm Card:** A follow-up email with a draft of the card will be coming shortly. Feedback is needed about the content/graphics to be added. There will be further conversations around the next steps as well as methods for dissemination.

## SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

- **Nomination Committee Updates:** The interviews for new members have been completed. A meeting will be held to make decisions and recommendations.
- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Updates:** Discussion about having Legal play a critical role in making recommendations. There are seven priority areas that will be the focus. They are also reviewing the by-laws to ensure the recommendations are in line with our by-laws. Looking to have a structured dialogue/forum to promote an understanding of DEI. Also discussed was looking at the County Council's policy on DEI. Lastly, to look at community engagement and how to increase and improve to share the county's vision and direction as it pertains to DEI. Efforts must adhere to the County Council's guidelines. Given that the County Council has not clearly defined DEI, a next step the committee is recommending that there be a focus on creating a common understanding around terminology. We will look to further the conversation during the retreat, create a forum to create awareness of DEI and discuss further how to involve the County Council in these conversations to create policy. A small committee will be formed to make formal recommendations to the larger body at the retreat. Dr. Cudjoe agreed to continue to lead the small group. Selena and Shane agreed to join and will provide an update at the next meeting.
- **Coordination of RESJAC Leads:** How do we best support the leads of the different group leads, given that many of the leads have additional external roles and responsibilities that compete for their time? Resources are being pulled to support and build knowledge and capacity around change management. The Committee is recommending a communication to the leads to share bios on the members and offer support around structures and practices around change management. Tiffany agreed to support in arranging an opportunity to speak with the leads.
- **Adding Voice of Hate-Bias Task Force to RESJAC: The County Council created six affinity group task forces** (Asian/AAPI; Black/African American; Jewish; Latino/e; LGBTQ; and Muslim. These groups were created based on county data of reports of Hate-Bias towards these groups. The Education and Culture Committee met in March to share updates with the community as they pertained to the force. The committee is recommending that we direct our attention to committees 1 and 2 as we wait to hear more about follow-up activities to address reports of Hate-Bias from the Education and Culture Committee of the County Council.

## OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

- **Youth Mental Health Workshop:** Looking to explore hosting a workshop in partnership with the Legislative Affairs Committee of the National Council of Negro

Women (Potomac Valley). The virtual workshop will occur on Thursday, May 30, 2024, at 7:00 pm. May is Mental Health Awareness Month. The event will look to bring awareness to mental health with a specific focus on youth and males of color mental health. There would not be any fiscal commitment in the partnership. The committee has asked that we share any policy around mental health. RESJAC would be listed as a sponsor/collaborator. Tiffany has agreed to get additional information on the process of partnering with external groups. A motion was properly moved by Sonia Cantazer that RESJAC serve as contributor/sponsor given the partnership is allowed. The motion was seconded by Betty Lam. The motion passed 10-0

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES**

### **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm by Dr. Pat Grant.