

## Equity Advisory Committee Meeting DRAFT Minutes

Wednesday, August 30, 2023 | 5:00-6:30pm | Zoom

**Attendees:** Jasim Mudaffar, Ragab Mohamed, Lydia Diamond, Faried Munarsyah, Elaine Haney, Elaine Wang, Mike O'Brien, Ahmed Mohamed, Zoraya Hightower, Omar Derzi, Mona Tolba (Translator), Emma Vaughn, Sarah Muskin, Anne Nelson Stoner (CCRPC Staff)

### 1. Welcome, Updates & Announcements

Anne Nelson thanked everyone for joining and provided an event recap of the Vermont First African Landing Day hosted by the Vermont Racial Justice Alliance. Anne Nelson asked if anyone had updates to share. Lydia said she is hosting a film screening of Abolition & Revolution from 6-8pm on Friday, September 1 at the South Burlington Library. Faried described the People's Kitchen Labor Day event. Lydia said she will be attending the final Winooski Wednesday on September 6. Anne Nelson said Charlie Baker (CCRPC Executive Director) is on the board of the Opportunities Credit Union and they are looking for a new board member; she asked members to contact her for more information if interested.

### 2. Equity Statement & Code of Conduct

Anne Nelson shared the status of the equity statement and the process it has gone through, including incorporating feedback from the last EAC meeting. She read the final draft statement aloud. Zoraya said the statement can be strengthened by adding "historic and current" to the sentence: *We hold ourselves responsible for identifying and addressing **historic and current inequities** in our own practices as well as those of the planning industry as a whole.* Zoraya noted that the statement has improved since the last time and that she would support it as is without the addition (but not without that sentence). Discussion ensued.

Anne Nelson noted that the equity statement needs to come first, then the Code of Conduct, then the Equity Action Plan. The Executive Committee will be reviewing the latest statement draft in early September, and then it will go to the Board.

### 3. Survey Responses and EAC Priorities

Anne Nelson shared the top priorities that came out of the EAC survey and noted there was not one primary priority, but rather some interest in all of them: 1.) Housing and Regional Equity Collaborative Event; 2.) ECOS Regional Plan; 3.) Equity Action Plan; 4.) Winooski River Bridge Project.

Anne Nelson shared the agenda for the Regional Equity Collaborative event and asked for feedback.

Ragab asked if we are sharing what the EAC is and is doing; AN explained that we will invite the community, including those who work at the state level, and share what we (the EAC) are doing – as well as have the opportunity to learn from them.

Elaine W. asked about the housing bill agenda item and noted that she doesn't want people's time to be wasted at the event – how much is will change? Anne Nelson said her goal for the

event is to share about the housing bill, what it means, and which communities are most affected.

Mona asked what the bill number is; Anne Nelson provided the number (S.100) and summarized the bill.

Elaine W. noted that the agenda looks good. Discussion ensued.

Anne Nelson asked if members would be willing to share invitations to their communities, and members agreed.

Elaine W. asked how do we balance formal vs. informal community leader attendance? Anne Nelson noted that she will need help with informal community members that she may have missed. Mona asked if participants will be compensated for attending, and Anne Nelson said yes.

Anne Nelson summarized the ECOS Regional Plan process, and discussion ensued.

Anne Nelson summarized the Winooski River Bridge project and shared opportunities to get involved, including potentially using the EAC as a focus group; Omar and Zoraya expressed interest. Anne Nelson suggested members could invite others from their communities to participate, and there was interest from many members in that approach. Discussion ensued. Anne Nelson will follow up.

#### **4. Federal Transportation Funding Grant Application**

Anne Nelson shared that we'll be partnering with Winooski Parents and Students and navigating FHWA guidelines and regulations. Within the next few weeks, CCRPC staff will be hosting a meet and greet with Winooski Parents and Students to learn from each other. Anne Nelson will keep the group posted on updates.

#### **5. Next Steps**

Anne Nelson noted that at the next meeting (in person) she would like to dig into the Code of Conduct and Equity Action Plan. She will also be reaching out to everyone to check in with them one on one about how it's going, now that it's been almost a full year – and to see if there are others who might want to join now that the committee has more of a charge and work plan.

#### **6. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.