



Racial Equity Commission Meeting Agenda

September 27, 2023

6:00 p.m.

108 Bim Street, Carrboro, NC

Call the Meeting to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chair Hawkins at 6:05p.m.

Attendance – Donald Hawkins, Betty Curry, and Liz Carter – members

Councilmembers Haven-O'Donnell and Foushee

Charles Harrington, Karen Kessler, and Anita Jones-McNair – staff

Approval August 23, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Curry motioned to approve, Carter seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

Inventory of Programs, Activities and Special Events Lens Review - Harrington and Kessler

Staff presented the background and findings of this lens. The purpose of this lens is to evaluate recreation and parks programming in the Town of Carrboro. Many diverse opportunities are available however is the town seeing diverse participation. Staff began collecting demographic data and able to track and capture annually and by program. Staff will look at other marketing strategies and/or relocating programs to serve more community members. Tracking and identifying data at free venues has been a challenge. Working on a process. Emphasis was placed on the importance of facilities and space to implement programs. Currently, the town rents school gymnasiums for the annual basketball program. Strengthening partnerships with community organizations that work with refugees and Spanish residents has been a focus. Also strengthening relationships with RENA and social service agencies to reach more of the population. Removing financial barriers is already in place with the Financial Assistance Program (FAP). More information is needed however to get the word out to families. Staff and REC members brainstormed on how to strengthen community programming for all residents – continue to develop partnerships, expand marketing of programs, access TIC boards throughout town, development of a community liaison program, more space opportunities once the 203 building is open and consider transportation options. The commission thanked staff for a comprehensive lens and discussion.

ARPA funding discussion

Jones-McNair provided a summary of project ideas from the last meeting - Create a tenant association, cooling stations, and heating areas in common areas and community education session/call to action and needs assessment. She then shared a summary of feedback heard from community members since the last meeting – suggestions for enhancing race and equity initiatives

Provide workshops for BIPOC residents on paths to home ownership.

More affordable, inclusive housing and override deed restrictions that discriminate against renters

Change the name of the town

Better educational system and affordable education beyond high school

Bollards on connector roads between neighborhoods need to be removed

More resources for the Hispanic community, including programs for families and kids

Have activities in which the community can get together and share stories and life experiences

Appreciate town reaching out, that is a great start

The commission discussed possibilities and recommended the planning and implementing of the following projects, Curry motioned to approve, Hawkins seconded, and the vote was unanimous. Jones-McNair will work on logistics.

Helping Community During Extreme Weather Temperature Pilot Program

This program is designed to provide relief, an evening meal, and overnight accommodations for the homeless not receiving other services during extreme weather temperatures (cold/winter and heat/summer) – up to 15 weather events. This program also provides part-time (as needed) job opportunities for 2/3 community members and BIPOC food vendors.

Provide a food supplement for Carrboro families in December

This program is designed to supplement food for 100 families in December 2023. Providing \$200 helps to close the food deficient for the month.

Adjourn

Hawkins motioned to adjourn at 8:02p.m., Curry seconded, and the vote was unanimous.