



Community Involvement Committee



# Community Involvement Committee

January 17, 2023 6:00-9:00 pm

Zoom

## MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

**In Attendance:** Richard Barker, Lung Wah Lazum, Brian Outlaw, Patrick Nolen, Ta' Neshia Renae, Kimberléa Ruffu, Jenny Shadley, Pau Thang, Angel Brophy, Sasha Burchuk

**Absent:** Kristina Edmunson, Malcolm Hoover

**Staff:** KellyAnn Cameron (notes), Anna Marie Allen, JR Lilly, Lakeitha Elliott

### Agenda Item

#### Introductions & Review Agenda

Meeting started, members chatted and waited for members to join and settle in for about 5 minutes, quorum was confirmed. KA introduced the Pick a Pic activity: Photo that represents how you feel now and a photo for an intention for 2023. Each member shared, then KA started the recording. KA walked through the agenda, the committee voted to approve the agenda using fist to 5. Approved.

#### Guest Speakers: OCI Director and Chair's Office

Anna introduced herself and shared that she is now in Government Relations as the Tribal Affairs Liaison, and thanked the CIC members for their time and grace with all the transitions at the County and in OCI.

Anna introduced JR, sharing that he is a member of the Navajo nation of the Diné people and comes to the county with a background in nonprofit and public sector work. His last position was with the City of Portland as their East Portland Action Plan advocate- Anna and JR worked together at NAYA in the development program, and JR has a lot of engagement experience. SHE shared a story about JR and Anna spending a weekend at a Native Elder's house clearing out sticker bushes on a hot day with dull tools- she shared that as a testament to his commitment to community work and building authentic relationships beyond surface level.

Anna then introduced Lakeitha Elliott, who has joined the Chair's office and who will be the liaison between the Chair's office and OCI and the CIC. Prior to joining the county she worked at the state house as the House Majority Office's Community Engagement Director. Prior to that, she served as the Legislative Assistant for State Representative Janelle Bynum. In her previous work, she has served as a SUN Program Coordinator in East County, a community organizer for the Urban

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League of Portland and Leadership Program Manager for the Portland African American Leadership Forum. She shared her excitement about welcoming both Lakeitha and JR, and that she is now moving out of her interim director role. Anna asked Lakeitha and JR to share a bit about themselves and what brings them to the work.

Lakeitha shared that she was hired here to focus on community engagement in the chairs office. She's born and raised here in Portland, has done a lot of community work, and knows how important it is to have everyone's voices engaged in community input. She shared her focus on the internal end of how the community is engaged with and received internally. At the state house there was interest in bringing in more communities of color's voices and participation- and she shared she wasn't willing to do that without internal work. She focused on getting white legislators trained and talking about internal systems and policies to be able to receive that and share power. Her three main policy areas of focus will be on Preschool for All, SUN schools, and violence prevention. Her focus is on as many voices as possible being heard in the county and that their voices really impact and move things somewhere, not just to check boxes. She's a week and a day in so is still figuring things out, but is available to connect 1:1 with everyone and is happy to show up and support however she can. She was also happy to serve on JR's hiring committee and work with him. Action item: **KA to send Lakeitha's contact info with the group, invite Lakeitha to upcoming meetings.**

JR shared thanks with Lakeitha for her work, sharing that she is someone who has "earned the right to be heard" and that she really knows why we're out here and is great to have involved. JR introduced himself in his native language of Navajo, and interpreted into English for the group that his name is JR Lilly, he is part of the Red Running into Water People and born of the Cliff Dwelling People - his mother's father is part of the Red Running into Water People and his father's father is part of the Edgewater People. He was born and raised in Window Rock, AZ, the capital of the Navajo Nation, the largest Native American tribe in the US. He joked that it's also probably the best Native American tribe and shared that he thinks humor is medicine and needs to be a part of all that we do. He shared that he's interested in getting to know each person more in a conversation, and what brings him here to this work. He shared that he grew up in difficult circumstances, including not having running water, and learned about why he was in that situation and waiting for someone to help get them out of that situation. He considered the government, nonprofit, faith community, and other communities that will help create the world we want to live in. His search took him off the Reservation, to college, and to work in the community, and found that there isn't one size fits all model. He shared that he believes in partnership to work together, to show up in authentic ways and live life by your values. He is an optimistic person and believes we can strive for a beloved community, it takes a lot of healing and he has seen it happen. In his work in East Portland, where over 50% of families live below the poverty level and there is worse infrastructure than other parts of the city, he supported organizing and getting together to advocate for themselves. He shared appreciation for everyone there and the ice breaker of where we are now and where we want to be. He shared that he is not top-down and feels we are all walking together on this journey.

Anna passed it back to KA, who opened it up for JR and Lakeitha to ask any questions and for members to share about themselves or share any questions or ideas as Lakeitha and JR get settled in their roles.

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Jenny shared welcome and thanks for being here. Patrick echoed this and welcomed them. Richard also shared appreciation and welcome to them and he looks forward to working with everyone going forward. He shared excitement for them to add insight and experience at every possible moment. Lakeitha asked the committee to share how long they have been involved and what brings them to the work. Thang shared it is his second year and he likes the focus, when he was applying he liked how the group wants to bring voices into the government, which he is passionate about. He's enjoyed talking about things that impact the community, especially for him he was interested in conversations on immigrant and refugee engagement. Ta' Neshia shared that she grew up in Portland with a lot of family difficulties, and she and her siblings got a lot of community support growing up that she doesn't know what she would have done without. She shared how simple kindness from others, like even a bus driver waving her fare as a teen, was a huge driver for her to apply to the committee. Richard shared that his background is in work around the AIDs crisis, since that started when he was around 18, and he worked on projects in LA and here. He is also involved in neighborhood associations and other groups to listen to the community, find out what they need, and make sure they work well. He started when the CIC got revamped, around three years ago, and he has been loving the opportunity to learn so many perspectives from people he doesn't see every day to know what is needed by the community to craft recommendations. Lakeitha thanks everyone and asks if everyone feels supported by the County and that their work feels valued at the County level and how they can feel more supported. Ta' Neshia shared that in her subcommittee they've been able to get lots of support from Anna and other people at the County, and everyone has been really great at helping them find a direction. She shared it has been a good experience so far, and that KA has been very helpful and supportive of her. Anna shared that Raf has met with the CIC (Subcommittee) a few times, and that Raf is still working in the Chair's office with Lakeitha, so he can continue to be a good connection for the CIC and Lakeitha around how the cCounty does youth engagement. Sasha added that it depends on what issues you're working on, she shared that the general meetings have had incredible speakers and OCI has the most dedicated and supportive staff. This is her second year, last year she was on the Emergency Response subcommittee and they got good feedback from the Chair's offices and the County was able to provide excellent experts. This time she is on a Subcommittee working on Housing and Homelessness, especially as a facet and emergency management, but we haven't been able to get subject matter experts in their meetings. It's tricky because she knows they are extremely strained, but if there is anything anyone can do to help us get access to those people, we could really use the support. If we can't recruit those subject matter experts we can't really come to recommendations, so she asked JR and Lakeitha to help out. JR responded that he loves the idea of a community led agenda, following what the community wants to hear. One of the skills Lakeitha brings is her experience in empowering community and building that, so rather than just 12 people on the CIC asking for these things asking for these things but the community asking through the CIC. We could explore that a little more, co-hosting educational training and things for the community to learn how these systems work and how we engage in them. KA invited Ta' Neshia and Sasha to share Subcommittee updates.

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### **Reports from Subcommittees**

Sasha (she/her) shared an update from the housing subcommittee - at their last meeting they spent

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time narrowing their focus and discussing what they want to focus on. They narrowed in on timely issues like the city's camping ban and ongoing issues like what has been working during the pandemic and what other things do we have to change since the world has changed re: people's ability to stay stable and housed. They also looked into suitability of housing. They are considering how they can have these conversations in ways that are sensitive and inclusive to the people experiencing homelessness who often can't come to these spaces.

Ta' Neshia shared that the Youth subcommittee is still gathering information and is at a point where they have to narrow things down. At the last meeting they discussed checking in with the library, trying to find some actionable things for the committee to do. We have been figuring that out, and are getting a lot of information and trying to identify what would be effective for this group. They are also going to the MYC meeting this weekend and are working on how to support them in our capacity as the CIC. They also connected with Raf and Erika, there are a lot of things under this area so working on what they can do and where they will be the most effective.

JR asked about the structure of the Subcommittees. KA shared that in the retreat in the fall the group selects the issues areas to work on for one or two years, and volunteers for subcommittees. We ask members to be on at least 1 subcommittee in their 3 year term. Unless there is a quorum of CIC members they do not usually meet in public meetings. She also shared that the group has also talked about making a feedback loop with the BOCC to follow up as well. Jenny added that the whole group approves recommendations but we meet in Subcommittees to create them. JR shared how when people came up with the East Portland Action Plan they came up with a list of what they would need to be on par with the rest of the city. This list created action items and a list of priorities. There's a lot we can do with the CIC - he's excited to get our hands dirty and make some policy on this: what are the action items and what do we need to do for that, we can look at lots of other models as well on this and get more information from the County about it. He shared he is a process person and is excited to get into it. KA shared that with JR and Lakeitha in their roles we're all excited to improve the CIC, and this will be an ongoing experiment and eval!

Thang asked if the group could have access to a google doc about the Subcommittees, so they can follow along. KA asked the Subcommittee Chairs and Subcommittee members. They agreed it would be easiest to share their shared folders rather than maintain one doc. **KA to include links to the folders in follow-up email.**

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**10min Break** - Lakeitha and Anna left the meeting, Ta' Neshia and Kimerlea also had to step away.

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### **Debrief Guest Speakers**

KA asked if anyone had reflections from guests. Patrick shared excitement that they can now get going on what needs to be done!

JR and Lakeitha are invited to future CIC meetings, anyone who has thoughts or reflections on how you'd like for them to show up, or requests you have of them for your time with them, they can contact KA, JR, or Lakeitha.

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### **CIC Co-Chair Election and approval of Community Agreements 7:30-7:40**

KA reminded the group to Vote and confirmed that everyone has voted. KA shared her screen to show results: Pau Thang (9), Richard Barker (8), Jenny Shadley (6). With these results Thang and Richard will be co-chairs for this term. Richard and Thang shared thanks and excitement for the role. Everyone congratulates Thang and Richard and KA will contact them to meet.

**KA to arrange with Thang and Richard to debrief this meeting and plan for the next CIC meetings!**

#### **Community Agreements:**

KA shared the screen with the draft, and dropped Kimberléa's recommendations into the chat. The group read through the agreements and agreed to them line by line. At the end the group decided to rephrase and rearrange the last few to have a "Meeting Expectations" subheading. Please see the final draft below for community agreements.

JR asked if these agreements are just for members or for anyone who attends the meeting. KA responded, usually it is for everyone. JR also asked what the process is if someone doesn't follow the agreements. KA shared she wasn't sure if there is a formal one but we can look in the policies, ask other advisory groups, and/or develop a formal process (and run it by attorney) with the Co-Chairs and future CIC Meetings. JR shared that they will check with legal counsel but these can help navigate any disruptions. Richard asked if JR has run into issues, and he said yes so they had to create policies to be able to dismiss people who want to derail the meetings and to protect marginalized voices in the space. KA will include it in the CIC Co-Chair agenda and CO-Chair's will report back. Pau Thang asked if it is allowed to invite the public to CIC meetings, and KA responded that it is a Public meeting and information to join is on the website - she shared the link in the chat and reminded folks that the minutes are posted publicly as well. She added that we can do a refresher on public meetings in future meetings. Thang asked if we could have another meeting or more information for people if they want to come, like the rules for participation. He shared that the current agreements are a bit too general for the public, that people might not know what that means, they may need more information about expectations to participate. KA said we can put it at the top of the Co-Chair meeting and report back to the CIC in March (or also send out an email with more info in the future). JR added we can get some meeting protocols etc, but in general the facilitator can be the arbiter of whether an accusation or behavior is valid. Usually one violation is a warning and a second is asking to leave.

**Public Comment: No public comment**

#### **Closing**

KA dropped the link to draft minutes from November and the group took a couple minutes to review them. Minutes were approved with first to 5 with no edits.

KA gave a Hybrid meeting update - TBD sending out resources, making a plan around it, etc. will be on the CIC agenda in future meetings, will be chatting with the group, Chair's office, etc.

- Membership Subcommittee: KA shared that she will be sending out the info/interest form for the Membership Subcommittee with the meeting notes. Like last year there will be an option
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to sign up for different phases: a planning and outreach phase, reviewing the applications, and doing the interviews and selecting applicants. KA will send more information!

- Next Meeting: March 21, 2023
  - KA to reach out to Co-Chairs to arrange a debrief meeting and planning mtg for March!

KA asked if anyone has thoughts on What went well? What could be improved for future meetings? People shared that they enjoyed the meeting and appreciated the guests.

## **Agreements Final Draft:**

### **Community Agreements FY23**

- Acknowledge intent, address impact
- Listen to understand
- What is said here stays, what is learned here leaves
- Think intentionally about what you want to say before sharing
- Speak from your own experience and prioritize using “I” statements
- Consider earned/unearned privileges that inform lived experiences
- Be willing to make mistakes and be accountable for missteps
- Move up, move back - elevate your participation, elevate your reflection
- Accept and make space for different participation levels and styles
- Take breaks and prioritize what you need to be fully present
- Celebrate everyone’s accomplishments

### **Meeting Expectations**

- Come to meetings prepared to participate
- Please let the Committee know if you will not be able to attend CIC meetings (it is assumed that Committee members will attend meetings unless they say otherwise).

## **Zoom Transcript:**

18:19:42 From Patrick Nolen : 5

18:19:46 From Kimberléa Ruffu (she/they) : 5

18:19:58 From Brian (he/him) : 5

18:30:12 From Community Involvement to Angel(Direct Message) : Hey Angel! JR is our new director and is just introducing himself now- welcome!

18:31:20 From Kimberléa Ruffu (she/they) : Apologies for leaving during JR’s intro - have a work meeting be nd then will be back at 7:30. Welcome JR and Lakeitha! 💕

18:31:32 From Community Involvement : Reacted to "Apologies for leavin..." with 👍

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18:32:41 From Sasha Burchuk : Thank you JR, that was an amazing introduction

18:33:28 From Richard Barker (he/him) : Thank you both for joining us. Welcome!

18:45:56 From Ta' Neshia Renae (she/her) : Just want to give a heads up, I am going to have to leave at 7:15 to pick up my son from basketball practice. Apologies to have to leave early.

18:46:06 From Community Involvement : Reacted to "Just want to give a ..." with 👍

18:51:08 From Patrick Nolen to Community Involvement(Direct Message) : Hi, sorry to bug you. I was wondering if you could give me the outline of what the housing/homelessness group is working on? I cant find it on the website.

18:51:21 From Community Involvement to Patrick Nolen(Direct Message) : Reacted to "Hi, sorry to bug you..." with 👍

18:51:57 From Community Involvement to Patrick Nolen(Direct Message) : of course! can I send you some things after the meeting?

18:52:06 From Patrick Nolen to Community Involvement(Direct Message) : of course.

18:52:17 From Community Involvement to Patrick Nolen(Direct Message) : will do!

18:55:43 From Community Involvement : from this page you can see past recommendations and minutes from CIC public meetings <https://www.multco.us/oci/cic>

18:59:45 From JR Lilly : So excited, please email me so we can connect one on one:  
jr.lilly@multco.us

18:59:56 From Patrick Nolen : thank you, JR

19:01:00 From Sasha Burchuk : Sounds great, feel free to share our shared folders :)

19:02:01 From Pau Thang : 7.5

19:02:02 From Patrick Nolen : perfect

19:02:03 From Anna Allen, she/her : I'm going to hop off. Thank you so much everyone! I've enjoyed strategizing with you all.

19:02:12 From Sasha Burchuk : Thank you Anna and Lakeitha!!

19:02:18 From Pau Thang : Thank you

19:11:31 From JR Lilly : I'm here. Might leave camera off for a minute while I have dinner.

19:19:22 From Patrick Nolen : YAY!

19:20:08 From Community Involvement : From Kimberléa: The bullet points about coming prepared and letting folks know if you can't make it seem like pre-meeting logistics versus in meeting values. Would it make sense to reorganize those two under a little separate section called like "thoughtful practices for meeting logistics?"

Support everyone's participation is also a little confusing to me written as such - maybe "participate how you're comfortable through..."?

19:33:07 From Sasha Burchuk : That makes sense!

19:37:41 From Community Involvement to Kimberléa Ruffu (she/they)(Direct Message) : Welcome back! We just approved the agreements, your comments were shared and did shape what it turned out to be, I'll send you the link real quick

19:38:31 From Community Involvement : approved draft: (will remove draft soon):

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19:39:15 From Community Involvement :  
<https://www.multco.us/oci/community-involvement-committee-meetings-minutes>

19:41:00 From Community Involvement : here is the calendar for CIC and all CBACs  
<https://www.multco.us/oci/community-involvement-charter-review-committee-community-budget-advisory-committee-calendar>

19:46:32 From Angel : Sorry y'all I have to leave soon but I approve the minutes.  
Thank you for everyone's time and energy 🧡

19:47:40 From Richard Barker (he/him) : Will we put the discussion on hybrid meetings on the next agenda or is it something that you and JR will work on outside the meeting?

19:48:05 From Pau Thang : I forgot I need to leave. Thank you all and I vote 5. See you again soon.

19:48:17 From Patrick Nolen : 5

19:48:18 From Kimberléa Ruffu (she/they) : 4

19:48:23 From Brian (he/him) : 5

19:52:40 From Sasha Burchuk : Thank you!

19:57:14 From Brian (he/him) : THANKS ALL!

19:57:23 From Brian (he/him) : oops caps lock

19:57:35 From Lung Wah (He/Him) : Thank you

19:58:10 From Brian (he/him) : hahah

19:58:11 From Brian (he/him) : ty

19:59:19 From Kimberléa Ruffu (she/they) : Take care y'all!

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