

**EQUITY STEERING COMMITTEE**

City Hall: Community Room

**NOTES**

March 18, 2024

- The meeting began at 6:04 p.m.
  - In attendance were Liz Start, Aneesa Turbovsky, Shian Gutierrez, Corey Hester, Dennis Ward, and Cameron Ruen. Staff present included Gabriela Santoyo Gutierrez (Equity and Inclusion Coordinator), Emma Sagor (Assistant City Manager), Brent Husher (Library Director), Jordan Imlah (Communications Program Manager), and Dan Harris (Events and Emergency Management Coordinator).
  - One community member was present.
- Dan Harris provided a brief recap of the multicultural community events program that was proposed at the February meeting. More information can be found in those meeting minutes.
  - An ESC member noted that they would like to see the ESC be involved in community engagement that informs future city event planning.
- Brent Husher provided an overview of the Ledding Library's programs and how the library helps advance the city's equity commitments.
  - ESC members shared the following as things they associate with libraries:
    - "It's where we hung out and grew up."
    - "Places to learn and discover new things."
    - "Anticipation and excitement of a new book."
    - "Could be a great place to learn how to read."
    - "Place to learn and gain skills."
    - "Safe space. Opportunity to explore and grow a love of learning."
    - "I remember the old library, looking through the card catalog. Now use it for meeting rooms, work, quiet studying. It is an equalizer."
    - "Big part of childhood. Loved story time. Love nonfiction."
    - "Summer reading program. Tutoring space. Now value the role they play as a social service provider and space to convene community conversation on tough topics."
- Brent described how he has directed his team to make sure new programming is focused on communities they aren't currently or haven't traditionally served.

- Brent shared that the goal is for the library to be a key place where the city is telling equity stories and driving conversations. But he noted that it can't do that in a vacuum.
- Discussion:
  - One member asked if there would be a way to send notifications or add items to the library calendar. Brent said he would send out digital invites to anyone who wants. Emma and Jordan also said we are planning a website refresh in 2024/25, and can add this to the list of things to explore.
  - One member noted appreciation of the staff's compassion toward community members needing a safe space and for the library of things.
  - One member said the city should explore ways to leverage library programs for city events, e.g., tying in multicultural celebrations with learning opportunities at the library.
  - One member asked what the library's communication plan is. Brent explained the library have staff who manage its social media accounts and web calendar.
  - One member suggested ESC members could host a "what it means to be an ESC member" drop in.
  - Emma and Gabriela agreed to make space on ESC agendas to advertise what activities are going on in the city over the coming month.
- Jordan Imlah discussed the city's communication channels and how we use them to tell Milwaukie's equity story.
  - One member asked if the Pilot is delivered to multifamily properties (e.g., renters). Jordan said it is delivered to the property manager, but with the intention of being distributed.
  - Two members talked about making the Pilot more strategic, high level, visually oriented. Possibly a longer version online and print versions less frequently or in a neighborhood hub.
    - One member suggested including a QR code to see if people would use it to "read more" on longer issues, allowing the Pilot to be shorter. They suggested offering an incentive.
    - A community member asked if people could choose to get the newsletter either online or in print? Jordan explained that's a great suggestion, but hard to do with bulk mail.
  - One member offered time/capacity to do an ESC take-over on social media. The group was super excited about a take-over in June for Pride and Juneteenth.
  - A community member asked about walking tours. Emma mentioned the engagement team has discussed the idea of guided bike rides and we could explore this further.
  - Emma proposed a joint meeting with the arts committee. There was general support to explore this.

- Next steps and action items:
  - Dan will return in April to discuss the logistics around the multicultural events program.
  - Emma and Gabriela agreed to make space on ESC agendas to advertise what activities are going on in the city over the coming month.
  - Jordan will work on scheduling a joint meeting with the arts committee.
  - Jordan will follow up with the interested member about June social media take-overs.
  
- The meeting concluded at 8:04 p.m.