

August 21, 2024 V-MCC Equity Committee Meeting Notes

Attendees: Kevin, Jessica A., Kathleen, Jess L., Jenna, Armen (phone), Yvonne, James

Meeting started at: 6:05 pm

Ice Breaker – What pet do you most want to acquire, or most regret having?

Land Acknowledgement: shared by Kevin

Review and approve or revise this agenda: Approved as written

Approve or revise notes from 5-1 meeting: Approved as published

Review of Recommendations for changes to Standing Rules (see slides)

- Diversity and Inclusion:
 - Two (versus one) liaisons to sectors
- Business and Workforce:
 - recommendation to split them into two separate sectors
 - counter arguments made:
 - to keep them combined due to the fact that the two “groups” should be kept together to foster common understanding and solutions and increased communication (7 to 1 to keep them combined)
- Faith
 - changed to “Spiritual Practices”
- Commuters should these be retained?
 - Just about everyone on Vashon-Maury are, at some point, commuters
 - Retain Commuters as a Sector (7 to keep, 1 abstain)
- Visitors should these be retained?
 - Too difficult to address their concerns through V-MCC. They can better make their concerns raised via other venues (e.g., CoC)
 - 7 voted to remove from the Sector list
- Waterfront Property Owners (add as a new Sector)

- 7 voted no, 1 abstain
- Renters and Landlords (add as a new Sector)
 - Is Affordable Housing, or other Sectors, a path for these groups to “be heard”
 - Affordable Housing isn’t really a person (as Renters and Landlords are). How would a liaison contact Affordable Housing? New recommendation to add Renters and Landlords to QofE
 - Adding Renters and Landlords to QofE makes that a large Sector
 - Should there be two liaisons to this Sector (QofE), however, there are already not enough BoD members to cover the existing Sectors. Keep the Sectors as simple as possible and therefore we shouldn’t add any additional ones.
 - Uptick experienced by BoD and therefore we should add R and L to QofE
 - 7 yes, 1 abstain
- Multi-Generational Islanders
 - Are they already distributed throughout the existing Sectors?
 - Discussion followed as to whether Multi-Generational islanders feel like they’ve been pushed out of many opportunities to be represented.
 - Having its own Sector may not be truly useful. More concern was raised about the increasing presence of King County.
 - Should we add a Sector for MG islanders?
 - Vote: 6 yes, 1 no and 1 abstain
 - Should conservatives/republicans/libertarians be added as a Sector?
 - Vote: 7 no, 0 yes, 1 abstain
- Should the words “upon request” be removed from the V-MCC will, upon request, provide auxiliary aids and services leading to effective communication for people with disabilities?
 - Discussion: removing this language might make the VMCC more inclusive, examples provided of other organizations (national) that use same language. Cost is also a factor, it’s expensive.

- Vote: Yes - 0, No - 7, 1 abstain
- Should we add “postering” to the method VMCC uses to advertise upcoming meetings?
 - No Discussion:
 - Vote: Yes - 6, No - 0, 2 abstain
- Should we add use of Health Club/Theater marquees for VMCC meeting notices?
 - No Discussion:
 - Vote: Yes - 0, No - 7, 1-abstain
- Should we add a statement to the standing rules that the Council will strive to conduct meetings in accordance with the allocated agenda times so that all planned topics and speakers are included?
 - Discussion: Some interviewees complained that the agenda times aren’t followed and therefore some presenters aren’t able to do their presentation. This is a difficult thing to do, as the BoD has received many complaints about not being able to speak during agenda topics. By allowing folks to talk, and therefore agenda topics aren’t covered, more people are feeling included and heard. BoD discusses this issue at every meeting.
 - Vote: Yes - 0, No - 5, 3 -abstain

Should we endorse Dune’s motion to support the Thunderbird Center?

EC chair received request as to whether or not EC should render an opinion on this topic. Clarification was provided that the request was not specific to supporting Dune’s motion, but rather would the EC take a statement about the TC to the BoD?

Discussion: It’s been recommended that the BoD (and therefore perhaps the EC) should remain neutral on this topic. In the past, the BoD, has requested to review any/all statements/questions the EC may ask (e.g., the Outreach Initiative) before they’re stated/asked. Perhaps the EC can do the job of fact checking the information being put out about the Thunderbird Treatment Center. It’s not in the EC charter statement to make comments/statements about such entities. Recommendation was made that a sub-group of the EC should meet and come up with a proposal for the EC to consider supporting.

Straw Poll: Should EC (as an Advisory Committee to the Board) issue a statement regarding the Treatment Center including the community discussion of the TTC? (is it in the purview of the EC)? Yes - 6 , No - 1 , Abstain – 1

Call for volunteers to meet as a sub-group: None of the meeting attendees volunteered.

Call for priority topics for our next meeting (9.04).

- Continue with existing agenda items that were not covered.
- Seeking a volunteer to lead the effort resulting from the straw poll.

Meeting adjourned: 7: pm