

January 17, 2024 V-MCC Equity Committee Meeting Notes

Equity Committee – Agenda – 1/17

6:00 – Ice Breaker – What is your favorite “winter beverage” ?

6:10 – Land Acknowledgement

6:12 – Review and approve or revise this agenda

6:14 - Approve or revise notes from 12-20 meeting

6:16 – Volunteer Request – Identify / post an action to support NW tribes at the February V -MCC meeting

Outreach Initiative

~~6:20 – Review interview sign-ups / Add interviewer names as needed (volunteer request) – All~~

6:40 – Q&A regarding the V-MCC and Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice - All

7:15 – Potential sub-group formation - Kathleen

7:25 - Call for priority topics for our next meeting

7:30 – Adjourn

FINAL

Attendees: James, Kevin, Yvonne, Kathleen, Jessica, Jess, Lilian Abelha, Dr Steve Nourse, Milla

Meeting started at: 6:03 pm

Ice Breaker – What is your favorite winter beverage?

Note: Introductions by Steve and Lilian

Steve is motivated by people participating and collaborating in their community. Wants to make elected officials successful, regardless of their politics. We limit our thinking when we name people by their politics. Also interested in accessibility around the island.

Lilian's motive for joining: biggest is a life commitment to democracy. Grew up in Brazil and her mom always told her to vote and to use critical thinking. Left DC to move to the island and MicroSoft. Very concerned about upcoming election and helping make sure folks vote.

Land Acknowledgement video was shared by Kevin

Review and approve or revise this agenda: Approved with one revision; delete review of interview sign-ups.

Approve or revise notes from 12-20 meeting: Approved as published

Volunteer Request – Identify / post an action to support NW tribes at the January V-MCC meeting

- James will post actions in January; no volunteer for February

Outreach Initiative

Check in: Outreach Initiative interviews – deferred this topic

Sign up: Outreach Interview signups by segment. - deferred this topic

Will our work make a difference? What difference do we want to make?

- By bringing issues up and being transparent we can make a difference (e.g., the way in which the Indian Health Board introduced their clinic). I believe we can/should bring a care clinic/housing back to the island. And, don't bite off more than we chew; but, be deeply involved in those things we choose to do.
- Emergency shelter fund (write a grant?) and have VMCC help create such a place.
- Help the VMCC be instrumental in taking action to address these issues of the unhoused.
- Plugged in with the Hispanic community on the island and has experienced the type of care that they offer to each other. There are people who live here in the woods year round and they're somewhat invisible to others on the island (folks thought they were only here in the summer during good weather). The island is not completely full of rich people. Time is our currency.
- Shocked there wasn't a shelter available with the coming weather. First time that has happened.

How do we see the VMCC

- Kevin: We are learning lessons that scheduling and conducting Outreach Initiative interviews are a challenge (16 of 120+ interviews conducted to date). Let's make sure this experience informs our expectations and recommendations to the VMCC regarding how Board members liaise with island "sectors".

ACTION ITEM(S) from the above discussion:

- Sub-group met to discuss how we can take action (Jessica, Milla, James, Kevin, Kathleen). Kathleen provided a summary:

- o Our Outreach can have more impact as we describe/relate what we've learned from our outreach interviews. We have so many non-profits who are 'soldiering' on but it is not enough. Is there a role for VMCC to see the bigger picture and bring all of these smaller groups together? Can the VMCC create a coalition of these smaller groups so that a 'tapestry' is created that makes the whole greater than the sum of its parts. and how to help VMCC see that it can be more than it is.
- o Kathleen will co-lead the group if another co-lead steps forward.
- Kevin will send out his notes and agenda for the next meeting.

Topics for next month's meeting.

- Review outcomes to date from interviews
- How frequently should our committee meet?
- How we can support the VMCC?

Meeting adjourned: 7:31pm