

Jan. 4, 2023 VMCC Equity Committee Meeting Notes

# Equity Committee – Agenda – 1/04

**FINAL**

6:00 – Ice Breaker– What gift did you most appreciate giving this holiday season?

6:10 – Land Acknowledgement

6:12 – Review and approve or revise this agenda

6:14 - Approve or revise notes from 1221 meeting

6:15 – Update: Land Acknowledgement motion and Statement- Jessica & James

6:20 – Discussion: Engage in meaningful communication with the VashoMaury community about equity barriers

Discussion: Outreach Initiative Summary

- Conversation with Erin Durrett

- Erin’s shared experience as an informal caseworker for a family of color looking for affordable housing

- Final thoughts on Council abilities- Kevin

Discussion: In addition to contacting people by phone, how else would we like to conduct our Outreach Initiative?

Review and Update: Outreach Initiative signups- Kevin

Decision: Should we create a grassroots survey, meet with community leaders or both?

7:20 – 1-18 Committee meeting call for priority topics

7:25 – Coffee pairings Allison - James Deborah - Jenna Kathleen - Terry

7:30 – Adjourn

Present: Kevin Jones, Jenna Riggs, Jessica Anakar, Linda Fox, Art Chippendale, James Rickard, Allison Trundle, Kathleen Fitch, Terry Sullivan, Deborah Anderson, Yvonne Kuperberg, Jessica Lisovsky, Erin Durrett.

The meeting convened at 6:06 pm with Ice Breaker.

The land acknowledgement was read by Kevin.

**Approve/revise tonight's agenda:**

Approved.

**Approve/revise notes from 12/21:**

Approved and ready to be published on the VMCC website.

**Update: Land Acknowledgement motion latest status – James/Jessica A**

Next public meeting: Saturday Jan. 7, 1-4 pm, at the Land Trust building.

The final text after this community input will be delivered to the VMCC Board Thursday Jan, 12, giving the board time to review the statement(s) before the January full council meeting.

The latest recommendation is to create 5 different options (see below) for the monthly reader. The strategy offers the reader more ownership, allows for the statements to evolve, and celebrates diversity in thought and action — democracy at work.

**Discussion: Engage in meaningful communication with the Vashon-Maury community about equity barriers:**

Comments were made and questions answered about the Outreach Initiative with an emphasis on Council abilities.

For example, one way to bring in more community members (hopefully a diverse group) to the Council is to point out ways the Council can influence King County and the delivery of services that folks need.

**Outreach Initiative -- Suggestions for ways to reach out:**

1. Introduce ourselves multiple times and in multiple ways ie, Beachcomber, Loop, social media.
2. Tabling at the grocery stores. Suggestion: Start with conversations around healthcare/mental healthcare and this will lead to discussions around discrimination in general given that these health issues and other injuries are a consequence of racism, ableism, etc.
3. Put up blank butcher paper in a meeting room and have folks write their issues down.

**Action - Kevin: Create a survey to capture how many of these suggestions are acceptable to the committee members and who is willing to volunteer to implement these ideas.**

**Action - Kevin: Send out list of organizations/people to be contacted so new members can sign on and list can be updated.**

**Coffee pairings:** Allison-James; Deborah-Jenna; Kathleen-Terry

**Meeting adjourned: 7:35 pm**

**Next meeting January 18, 2023 — 6:00 pm**

5 Land Acknowledgement Statement options:

The 5-option strategy offers the reader more ownership, allows for the statements to evolve, and celebrates diversity in thought and action — democracy at work.

(A) Please take a moment of silence to acknowledge and show our respect to the Coast Salish people. [insert 30 seconds of silence]. We gratefully honor Coast Salish People for their land stewardship and commit to continuing to grow our relationships with them and the lands we now live on.

(B) Please join me in acknowledging the Coast Salish People. The land we occupy today is their ancestral land. For thousands of years they lived on it, stewarding its resources with care and wisdom. Today with gratitude, we acknowledge them and their elders, past present and emerging and recognize that this land remains a vital part of their cultural sovereignty.

(C) We acknowledge the people of the Puyallup tribe and that we are on their traditional land. We gratefully honor the Puyallup and commit to building relationships with the homelands of the Puyallup tribe. We commit to stewarding the land in partnership and preventing the erasure of the Twulshootseed language and the history of the Puyallup people.

(D). We acknowledge and honor the tribes of WA state as political entities. We commit to respecting the laws of treaties and sovereignty under the United States constitution article VI.  
We commit to taking actions of reconciliation, working with the tribes to identify ways to steward the land, restore habitats, and fostering practices that will benefit future generations.

(E). Please join me in paying respects to the Coast Salish people including the S~xwbabs, the S'homami, the Swobabe, the Puyallup and the Muckleshoot and those who we do not name.

They built their homes, told stories, created community, birthed children, fought battles, developed medicine, buried relatives, created art, and lived in unity with the natural world for thousands of years.

We pay our respect to your relatives, your elders and your ancestors past, present and emerging. We acknowledge that we have benefited significantly from the intentional care they have provided that continues to preserve our natural resources for present and future generations. This Acknowledgement does not take the place of authentic relationships with Indigenous communities.

but merely serves as a step in honoring the land and resisting the erasure of Indigenous people, past, present and future.