

EQUITY TASK FORCE | MEETING MINUTES
JULY 20, 2023 – REGULAR MEETING
3:30-6:30 PM

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Jade Krueger, Marcela Badillo, Pierre Bergman, Brandon Hernandez, Miki Aristorenas, Stacy Noland **VIRTUAL:** Jason Fritts **ABSENT:** Rosa Sanchez
STAFF: Tyler Sinclair, Susan Scarlata (virtual), Nancy Marquina

III. DISCUSSION

A. Talking Circle

- B. Land Acknowledgement Debrief:** Council had a thorough discussion and a lot of questions. Councilmember Schechter wanted to know what the Town is trying to accomplish with the acknowledgement. Councilmember Rooks had some specific edits to add the ‘Sheep Eaters,’ not use ‘others,’ and to go further with ‘broken treaties.’ Council ended up voting to maintain the Land Acknowledgement as proposed with the perspective that one of the recommended actions was to revisit it on a regular basis.

IV. NEW ITEMS

A. Task Force Member Miki Aristorenas presents on previous equity work in policy, edtech, and refugee education.

- a. Swedish Education system; 6-month project with team of 9 culminating in presenting to Swedish Minister of Education and his Education Commission in Stockholm
- b. Eduaksyon.ph; democratizing education in the Philippines & Emaptic; bringing educators from different backgrounds together.
- c. Refugee Education; English is significant barrier to education, training, and employment for refugees. Mosaik’s Dogme Toolkit transforms English language learning for refugees by supporting teachers to make learning communicative, human and engage, online or in the classroom. Build a community of refugee-led organizations and networks.

B. Tyler Sinclair presents about Equity in Zoning: A History & Policy Review

- a. The idea of dividing cities into “zones” for developers is about 150 years old. Originally helped solve problems due to overcrowding and pollution.
- b. The earliest zoning codes were implemented with racist motivations. Zoning out industrial uses was motivated by stopping integration.
- c. Landlords advocated for single-family zoning and used covenants to prevent people of color from living in certain neighborhoods.
- d. Most neighborhoods in cities nationwide continue to be zoned for single-family homes.
- e. Single-Family Home Requirements increase costs; limit options; exacerbate segregation; encourage care use; and make alternatives difficult to build.
- f. The US built ½ as many units per capita in the 2010s as in the 1960s through 1980s, which has created a ‘missing middle’ in housing across the country.
- g. Construction of affordable housing has declined. Most Americans who need affordable housing –meaning paying less than 30% of incomes to rent— do not have it.
- h. Combination of restrictive local zoning codes, low construction overall, limited investment in affordable housing, and rising real estate prices limits access to opportunity, making it difficult for low-income people, particularly people of color, to access public services, jobs, and other essential needs.

- i. Enabling low-income folks to move to opportunity communities has significant positive impacts including increased incomes, better mental & physical health outcomes, lower incarceration rates, and more amenities.
- j. Using Zoning to improve equity: allow increased density: build bigger multi-family and smaller single-family; Identify ways to boost affordability; Recenter race in zoning policy.

V. DISCUSSION – REVIEW OF EQUITY QUESTIONNAIRE & FURTHER RECOMEMNDATIONS

VI. ADJOURN at 6:00pm