



# Joint Commission on Racial Justice and Equity



## Information and Technology Sub-Committee

### MINUTES

Thursday, January 12, 2023

5:30pm

Via Zoom

#### Members Present:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel McCloud , Co-Chair | X Lisa Marie Schultz, Co-Chair          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jessica Bastian           | X Sunny Pearson                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shawn Johnson             | X Datikka Peebles                       |
| X Jessica McKean                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Jenny Replogle |

#### **1. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 5:35pm by Lisamarie Schultz

#### **2. Approval of Minutes**

November and December minutes were approved

#### **3. Informational Items and Reports**

- Jamel Shelton (former co-chair) will be returning to the commission next month
- Reviewed guests from last month's meeting regarding Cradle to the Grave through ICC, assessing community needs, providing resources covering a wide range of services and needs
- Chair for Economy and Employment sub committees, overlap with our needs and ideas
- Education, Equity and high-speed internet

#### **4. Discussion**

- Mayor Ali met with I3 about broadband in the targeted zip codes and need some sort of

commitment that there is a premium covered

- Grant that could cover the expense of internet coverage is a possible solution
- Would mobile hotspots be a cheaper alternative?
- Fiber could be timely and unreliable depending on ground vs aerial
- Are hotspots an equitable option or a short-term solution?
- Some access is better than no access
- Good questions to direct to IL Office of Broadband. Is funding being broken up for different needs?

**Formulate questions for Lisamarie to ask.**

- Jessica shared about a sample from a community in Vermont regarding a wireless mesh network
- If there isn't equipment in their hands it won't help, utilize PCs for People through the Minority Business Development Council
- Jessica share <https://www.vtrural.org/programs/digital-economy/services/wifi/toolkit> and <https://nationswell.com/wi-fi-connects-poor-neighborhoods/>
- What happens next for committees?
- Review of 2022 report was submitted
- Interns and communication assistance will be coming to help move things forward once the mayor approves the plans
- We will be starting to go out into the community more and gathering information directly
- It should take 3-5 years to start seeing actual results based on King County, this is a marathon
- This is a big change, and it will take time to implement and allow everything to take root
- Technology changes fast so we will have to make smart timely decisions
- Is there funding for any of the committees? No individual funding for sub-committees, but employed staff will be paid through County/City
- Funding could prevent acting on something like wireless mesh
- Perhaps our contacts at Cradle to Career or Economic Sub-Committee
- In 5 years we could have technology beyond what we're proposing and ideas are outdated
- Suggestions are given to the Steering Committee to take to the mayor
- "Is there a way to do this now with funding that is currently available" taken advantage of before it's a missed opportunity
- Lisamarie is going to be emailing the Steering Committee and will include some of these questions and concerns to see what we can find out
- Escalate the urgency of timeline and see what other input and assistance we can find with other groups
- Approach Steering Committee for suggestion on who to talk to regarding the review of current funding options available specifically related to IT/Broadband through the Federal Government that are available immediately and may be lost otherwise.

**5. Recommendations to the Steering Committee**

**6. New Business**

Next Meeting February 16, 5:30pm

**7. Adjournment**

Adjourned meeting at 6:27pm