



## Joint Commission on Racial Justice and Equity Economic Development and Jobs Sub-Committee



### MINUTES

Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 5:30 pm  
Greater Peoria Economic Development Council  
401 NE Jefferson St, Peoria IL & Zoom

**In Attendance (in person):** Tom Pelger, Uriah Kilgallin, Jackie Watkins, Chris Setti, Eric Burns, Mike Seghetti **(via Zoom):** Kimberly Richardson, Patresse Moore, Janice Zagardo, Nia McFarland-Drye, Erik Christian **Excused:** Paula Nachtrieb **Not In Attendance:** N/A

- 1. Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Tom Pelger at 5:32 PM
- 2. Approval of Minutes:** Tom moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup> 2023. Motion approved by Chris Setti, seconded by Jackie Watkins. Minutes were approved by consensus.
- 3. Informational Items and Reports**
  - Jobs and workforce development group project team met to discuss transportation pilot with Illinois Central College. Discussion highlighted that using bus routes, Uber, etc, there is a complex set of variables to work with. Autonomy of individually owned vehicles would be a real plus. A major non-profit in Cincinnati, OH has a program that can help individuals get quality used vehicles at an affordable price. Program is called "Changing Gears." Discussed in detail the offerings of that program. Steve Stewart of Morton Industries is a local champion of the program, looking to duplicate something similar in Peoria. Potentially trying to entice employers and private donors to support this program. Erik Christian's suggested involving the HR Directors Society to potentially assist in administration with corporate partnerships. Erik will involve Society for assistance in creation. Tom will be working through ICC to set up a meeting with Steve Stewart to learn more.
  - Jackie, Mike, and Chris will have a meeting to discuss Economic Development strategy opportunities for this committee moving forward.
  - Tom participated in Regional Workforce Alliance's Multiple Barriers committee. As they start meeting again after a hiatus, we should try to get our group involved.
  - Electronic copies of the 2022 Report for the Joint Commission on Racial Justice and Equity have been sent to all sub-committee members. Tom shared the discussion at last week's meeting of the Steering Committee and Sub-Committees Co-Chairs on the game plan for getting this distributed to the right partners within the city. Building up a community calendar to provide the report to different community stakeholders. We need to have a plan engage the community and get its support. This could involve media interviews, geographically located neighborhood associations, and other business and community groups like Rotary, Kiwanis, etc
  - Racial Equity and Inclusion ordinance from the City was also discussed at the Co-Chairs meeting. More work is needed to build the case and support so it is seen as both workable and can positively affect all communities within the city.

**4. Discussion**

- How do we engage Hispanic community in our work? Kimberly suggested church gatherings and finding community members who can be champions to assist with this program. Another option may be working with the organizers of the annual Fiesta en Rio.

**5. Recommendations to the Steering Committee**

**6. New Business**

- Next meeting: Will meet on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM at GPEDC.

**7. Adjournment**

- Mike Seghetti moved to adjourn. Seconded by consensus. Meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm.