



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



MINUTES

Monday, March 13th, 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, Mike Seghetti

(via Zoom): Kimberly Richardson, Erik Christian, Patresse Moore, Janice Zagardo

Excused: N/A

Not In Attendance: Nia McFarland-Drye, Paula Nachtrieb, Eric Burns

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Tom Pelger at 5:45 PM
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Tom moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting on February 13th 2023. Motion approved by Chris Setti, seconded by Mike Seghetti. Minutes were approved by consensus.
3. **Informational Items and Reports**
 - Tom, and Ursula Towne (co-chair of the Transportation Sub-Committee), had a meeting with Steve Stewart of Morton Industries. Discussed Steve's contacts with City Link Cincinnati, a non-profit in Cincinnati OH, about their wrap-around service center and its work to improve the lives of citizens. Steve is exploring with several leaders the potential for a similar center in Peoria's south side. Steve is also exploring with local employers in Morton and CityLink about coordination of shift schedules to enable bus service to their firms for employees from the southside of Peoria.
4. **Discussion**
 - Erik Christian met with the executive board of the Heart of Illinois Chapter of the Society for Human Resources Management (HOISHRM) to explore their interest in surveying their members on transportation challenges for their employees. They were very interested. Survey would include what member HR managers see as the primary transportation obstacles from employee exit interviews or recruiting barriers. Erik will raise this in the Society's April 12 meeting. Our sub-committee reviewed and revised several of the draft survey questions to ensure clarity in answers.
 - The workgroup on minority business development reported on their discussion last week on issues and potential strategies to encourage minority entrepreneurship and overcome barriers to it within Peoria. The City of Peoria plans to survey local businesses to guide their review of the Revolving Loan Fund through an equity lens. The questions are open ended and directed towards the business. Uriah shared use of individual interview questions provided by Equitable Lenders group. Our sub-committee reviewed the questions and provided feedback based on questionnaire. The sub-committee asked the City to provide further clarification on the timing for survey's completion, whether we can amend the questionnaire, the list of companies the City has identified for the survey, and how to coordinate sub-committee members involvement in conducting interviews.

5. Recommendations to the Steering Committee

- After emergency declaration has ended, sub-committees need clear rules for digital attendance for committee meetings (e.g. what are the conditions for individuals to attend virtually, how many members must attend in-person to meet meeting quorum conditions, etc).

6. New Business

- Next meeting: April 10th at 5:30 PM at GPEDC, with Zoom link, for those who cannot attend in-person.

7. Adjournment

- Tom Pelger moves to adjourn. Seconded by consensus. Meeting was adjourned at 6:42 pm.