



Racial Equity Committee

February 28, 2023

7 – 8:00 pm

Attendees:

Haile Sims (Chair)

Kate Raglow (Council Representative)

Carrie Paulette

Guest: Tom Madigan (council member)

Committee Goals:

1. Develop economic and workforce opportunities for businesses and employees of color and identify any obstacles that exists
2. Establish that Roeland Park is an open and welcoming community to people of all races and backgrounds, where acting on racist beliefs is not tolerated.
3. Develop racial bias and equity education and outreach for city staff, elected/appointed officials and residents.
4. Create more community engagement activities that involve our Police Department to facilitate stronger relationships with the community.

Minutes

- A. **Chair Haile Sims called meeting to order.**
- B. **Approve December/January minutes- tabled until March meeting**
- C. **Santa Fe Trail signs – 5 mins, T. Madigan**
 - Historical Committee wanting to take small steps to annotate the history of the area
 - 10 signs that will mark the location of the Santa Fe Trail
 - Sign markers would say “Santa Fe Trail Historic Route”
 - Santa Fe Trail did go through Walmart’s parking lot, but the signs will go around the parking lot
 - Committee would like to be able to use the trail as a 5K path
 - Cost: \$1,000
 - Historical Committee feels it is a neutral portrayal of history
 - Next steps: signage in Carpenter Park to show where trail goes through yards
 - Already have 2 markers of trail on Mission Road
 - National Park will supply the sign so no city logos, just the National Park logo.
 - Council Member Madigan asked the committee to consider the city’s questions of racial equity. Haile and Kate asked that these questions be considered by the Historical Committee.
 - Haile Sims and Kate Raglow shared that they didn’t see any objections when looking at the racial equity questions. Carrie Paulette shared that while the Santa Fe Trail signage at the moment is neutral at the moment, the Santa Fe Trail itself affected different racial groups in different ways so would like to see any context added about the trail in future historical projects take this into account.
 - Council Member Madigan shared a desire to hold co-meetings between the two committees as the committee moves forward in further historical sign projects. Carrie Paulette agreed that this would be a good idea.
 - Kate Raglow shared that the Roeland Park Council will use the presented equity questions in discussion of all budget objectives.
 - Motion to approve the plan for Santa Fe Trail signs made by: Kate Raglow Seconded by: Carrie Paulette. Ayes: Haile Sims, Kate Raglow, Carrie Paulette. Nays: None. Motion passes.

- Council Member Madigan said that he will contact Mr. Moody tomorrow to move the project forward.

D. Education Series – 5 minutes, H. Sims

- Haile Simes shared that at March meeting, he would like to pick one event per month to advertise to city. Kate Raglow and Carrie Paulette agreed that this would be a good idea.
- Haile Sims expressed interest in getting more people to events, similar to PV's Diversity Townhall.

E. Other Business

- Haile Sims expressed interest in meeting in person in the future.
- Council Member Raglow won't be at our next meeting. Council Member Dickens will be an alternate.
- Carrie Paulette asked about inviting a writer from the Shawnee Mission Post to attend a meeting to provide information about the Shawnee Indian Mission. Haile Sims shared that he has the contact name and could reach out to her.
- Council Member Raglow shared that with Erin Winn's resignation, we will likely not have a staff member in attendance until her replacement is hired. Keith Moody is a good resource until then.

F. Meeting Adjourned

- Motion to adjourn by Carrie Paulette. Kate Raglow seconded. All voted aye.