

## July 6, 2022 VMICC Equity Committee Notes

# Equity Committee – Agenda – 7/6

6:00 – Welcome

6:05 – Land Acknowledgement – Kathleen

6:08 – Call for nominations for Committee Secretary, 7/18 VMICC status report and 7/20 Committee meeting chair

6:10 - Review and approve or revise this agenda

6:15 - Approve or revise notes from 6-1 and 6-15 meetings

6:20 – Discussion: “Why” an Equity Committee? Breakout rooms / report back Next meeting: discuss What and How

6:40 - Discussion / Decision: Equity Committee Name and Charter – finalize Committee recommendation

6:50 – Discussion / Decision: Operating policies **Not discussed – slides removed**

7:15 – Proposal: Applying insights from Betty Peralta talk - Rachel **Not discussed**

7:20 - Breakout rooms: join another Committee member for coffee

7:25 – July 20 Committee meeting proposed agenda and call for priority topics

7:30 – Adjourn

Present: Hunter Davis, Kevin Jones, Kathleen Fitch, Jessica Anakar, Rachel Rome, Jessica Lisovsky, Jenna Riggs

Committee members who provided prior notification of absence: Terry Sullivan (tech issues)

Committee members who have stepped down: None

The meeting convened at 6 pm.

The land acknowledgement was read by Kathleen Fitch.

Call for nominations for Secretary — Jenna Riggs nominated herself. She has volunteered to take minutes for this meeting. Jessica Anakar volunteered to be a substitute when Jenna is absent.

Kevin has asked to have a spokesperson for the 7/18 VMICC status report — Rachel has volunteered

Kevin has asked to have a chair for the 7/20 committee meeting — no one volunteered, so plan is to cancel that meeting. Next meeting will be August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Approve/revise notes from 6/1 and 6/15: Both approved and ready to be published.

### **Discussion: Why did you join the Equity Committee/What's our purpose?**

Reasons included:

- through various trainings/on the ground meetings, finding that working families are slipping through the cracks and that we are not creating a sustainable community. Is very interested in improving conditions and making sure everyone has the resources they need.
- is inspired by the Swift Water people — focused on the values that everyone is welcome and that everyone is cared for
- interested in bringing themselves into alignment/get educated on equity and help the community realize where we are and how to move forward
- wanted to use their professional skill set to help move the work forward and to be a liason between the committee and VMICC
- wanted to help create/source tools and expectations, to encourage as many people to have a voice as possible and dissuade the extremism that has been seen in other small communities.
- constantly working on equity issues personally — makes sense to start applying it in a practical way on the island. Vashon is not equitable, and to find solutions we need to raise our voices, educate ourselves, and say no to those who do not have the community good at heart.

Equity issues that we would like to be able to influence on the island:

- disability issues (wheelchair transport hardships due to terrible infrastructure) but not just physical — mental/trauma and more
- treatment processes (drug/alcohol/domestic abuse)

- safety for vulnerable people — this is a very layered/complicated issue and needs many partners — need to improve systematic access to grocery/doctor/schools
- discrimination — intersectionality with access to safety/resources

### **Proposal Discussion:**

Feedback on the current committee's name and charter (see agenda slide)

Big question — how do we describe expectations while understanding that the VMICC is all volunteer? What are the actions that we are specifically moving toward? Should we put in language about the path we are on ... that it is a process and will evolve to best serve the community?

Language has been updated (see new updated slide.)

Vote to send revised Name/Charter to board passed.

### **Coffee partners assigned**

### **Next meeting agenda:**

- What and how we do our work
- Operating policies
- Applying insights from Betty Peralta talk (Rachel—may put off until Sept.)

As per the decision from last meeting, the next meeting will be the first Wednesday of August, **August 3, at 6:00 pm.**