

Special Committee on Racial & Social Justice Meeting Minutes from July 7, 2020 7 – 8:45 pm

Attendees:

Joel Rubin (co-chair) & Irene Lane (co-chair)

Marta Alvira-Hammond, Carlin Barmada, Jeffrey Berger, Jennifer Burton, Sarah Demarest, Alexa Glazer, Beverly Hudnut, Marey Jencks, Lynne List, William McKinnon, Mo Orbach, Rachel Orgel, Renuka Rubin, David Tepper, Trina Ulrich, Deborah Vollmer

[Link to PowerPoint Presentation on Google](#)

Summary for Minutes / List Serv Posting:

On Tuesday, July 7, the inaugural meeting of the Special Committee on Racial & Social Justice was held with 18 Town residents in attendance. The meeting began with a viewing of two videos that led to a discussion on what racial and social justice meant to each committee member followed by a listing of suggestions for how the committee could help enact educational programs, provide action recommendations to the Town Council, and lead positive activism. Although specific recommendations for action were brought up during the meeting, it is anticipated that other actions will be suggested by both the sub-groups and the entire committee.

After viewing another short video (produced by B-CC students), the committee agreed to hold additional discussions to further flesh out details for how to proceed.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 5 at 7:00 pm. The committee welcomes all residents, especially residents of color, to join in (as a spectator and/or to provide additional input). [Link to PowerPoint Presentation on Google](#)

Detailed Meeting Notes:

Summary of Discussion Points (What Racial & Social Justice Means to You?):

- Equal opportunity and access for achieving excellence
- Becoming more self-aware so that a new set of shared values and ultimately new habits can emerge
- Going from systemic to systematic changes (non-racist to anti-racist) in education, policing, voting
- Eliminating barriers towards fairness and justice
- Meeting everyone's basic needs so that they can develop to full potential
- Being physically and psychologically secure
- Having a voice toward decision making without egos and divisiveness
- Reallocation of money throughout County
- Reparations
- Promoting sensitivity to and knowledge about systemic oppression
- Not a goal to be attained once, but a change in practices in which all are responsible and accountable
- Respect for differences / Takes a lot of effort to be a diverse community
- Not wrapping identity as "progressive" when there is an absence of change
- "When there is no one to blame, everyone is to blame"

Summary of Discussion Points (What Would You Like to Come Out of Special Committee?):

- Educational programs including small group facilitated discussions / facilitated book group discussions on BLM; having conversations and safe spaces to discuss unconscious bias
- Vetted resource directory
- Changing 4th of July readings to reflect Frederick Douglass / Celebrate Juneteenth
- Partnerships with other municipalities / youth organizations
- Zero tolerance
- Acknowledgement of Town / Area historical exploitation and covenants / Apologize / Learn and move ahead in meaningful ways
- Bring in more representation of different views to this group itself
- Prioritize change over talk
- Proclamation to remove Newlands Plaque / Renaming of Chevy Chase Circle
- Want to see Town media coverage for something positive
- Teaching parental skills on how to talk about anti-racism at home
- Town contracts to businesses owned by people of color

Additional Resources:

<https://www.instagram.com/blackatbcc/> (Black at BCC)

<https://www.instagram.com/blackatwhitman/> (Black at Whitman)

<https://www.instagram.com/blackathas/> (Black at Holton-Arms)

<https://www.instagram.com/blackatgds/> (Black at GDS)

<https://www.instagram.com/blackatpotomac/> (Black at Potomac)

On behalf of the DC Center for Rational Prescribing (DCRx), a program from DC Health in collaboration with Innovation Horizons and the George Washington School of Medicine & Health Sciences Office of Continuing Education for Health Professions, a course module available on the topic of *Implicit Bias* in prescribing and health care decision-making. DCRx provides evidence-based continuing medical and pharmacy education to physicians, pharmacists, and other healthcare professionals. In this course module on *Implicit Bias*, viewers will learn about the underlying psychology of unconscious associations and judgements, and how these biases are manifested in everyday clinical decision-making. Viewers will have an opportunity to assess their own biases to increase self-awareness and learn about debiasing strategies to mitigate risks of bias on treatment and care. To register and take the course, follow this [link](#).

https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/white-antiracist-allyship-book-clubs/2020/06/11/gedcc766-abf5-11ea-94d2-d7bc43b26bf9_story.html