

**Whatcom County
Council Public Works & Health Committee**

COUNTY COURTHOUSE
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
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Committee Minutes - Final

VIRTUAL MEETING - VIEW ONLINE; ENDS NO LATER THAN 1:40 P.M.

Tuesday, November 24, 2020

1 PM

Virtual Meeting

COUNCILMEMBERS

Todd Donovan
Carol Frazey
Kathy Kershner

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

Call To Order

Committee Chair Carol Frazey called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. in a virtual meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Carol Frazey, Todd Donovan and Kathy Kershner

Absent: None

Also Present: Rud Browne, Tyler Byrd, and Ben Elenbaas

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2020-431](#) Resolution affirming racism as a Public Health Crisis

Elenbaas and Browne briefed the Councilmembers about their work on the Resolution with the Public Health Advisory Board.

Kershner moved that the Resolution be recommended for approval.

Kershner moved to amend the sixth Whereas statement of the resolution as follows:

“WHEREAS, in response to the ~~kill~~ing-death of George Floyd and the unnecessary death of countless others...”

Councilmembers discussed the motion.

Kershner withdrew her motion to amend.

Erika Lautenbach, Health Department Director, answered a question about annual training as referenced in Section 4 of the Resolution under the “NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED” statement and whether there has been an analysis done to determine the cost and time it will take on an annual basis and whether annual training would be required for boards that do not meet very often. They discussed whether training could be added to orientation as opposed to being an annual training.

Kershner moved to amend Section 4, Item A as follows:

A. Implementing ~~annual~~ training on the following topics for all elected officials, County staff and members of boards, commissions and committees: implicit bias, trauma informed practices, and

review of health disparities to occur at orientation.

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive, and Councilmembers discussed the motion, letting the commission look at it and come back with ideas, and requesting that Human Resources come up with a workable program for training.

Frazey suggested a friendly amendment that the training be biannual.

Kershner did not accept the friendly amendment.

Kershner amended her motion *and moved* to just remove the word “annual” as follows:

A. Implementing ~~annual~~ training on the following topics for all elected officials, County staff and members of boards, commissions and committees: implicit bias, trauma informed practices, and review of health disparities.

She stated they can come up with language tonight.

Donovan stated that the expectation will be that when a commission forms, they will work with Human Resources and the Executive.

The amended motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Kershner, Donovan, and Frazey

Nay: 0

Kershner and the Councilmembers discussed the use of the word “amplify” and the intent of the language in Section 4, Item E with the following people:

- Erika Lautenbach, Health Department Director
- Steve Bennett, Public Health Advisory Board (PHAB)

Donovan suggested that it read: “Supporting community efforts to ~~amplify~~ bring attention to issues of racism and bias...”

Sidhu suggested that it read: “Supporting community efforts to ~~amplify~~ alleviate issues of racism and bias...”

Kershner moved to amend Section 4, Item E as follows:

E. Supporting community efforts to ~~amplify~~ alleviate issues of racism and bias and engaging actively and authentically with communities of color wherever they live.

The motion to amend carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Kershner, Donovan, and Frazey

Nay: 0

Donovan asked about the first line of the resolution (“WHEREAS, even before the foundation of America’s colonies, racism has existed in America.”) and why that language was changed from the originally proposed Resolution.

Elenbaas and Bennett spoke about the language and the intent:

Donovan moved to amend the third WHEREAS statement as follows:

“WHEREAS, the Black experience in America beginning with slavery, Jim Crow laws, Grandfather Clause and the long-delayed recognition of the 14th amendment and other violations of the 14th Amendment, redlining...”

Councilmembers discussed the motion.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3- Kershner, Donovan, and Frazey

Nay: 0

Browne asked about Section 4, Item D and what it means:

D. Prioritize diversity of race within the county commissions.

Councilmembers discussed what they think that item means and they and Sidhu, discussed how the language might be amended.

Kershner moved to amend Section 4, Item D as follows:

“D. ~~Prioritize~~ Promote diversity of race within ~~the~~ county boards and commissions.”

The motion to amend carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Kershner, Donovan, and Frazey

Nay: 0

Elenbaas continued to discuss that item and the intent of the language.

Byrd stated he would like to consider adding a sub-bullet to Item D that says that the Council will look at the holistic makeup of all of our committees annually to ensure that they are accurately representing our community and demographic. He also spoke about identifying other community sources of advertising for boards and commissions to recruit individuals of different demographics.

Councilmembers discussed Byrd's suggestions.

Kershner's motion that the Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENTS carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Frazey, Donovan and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Carol Frazey-via email 12/1/2020

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Carol Frazey, Committee Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

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