

SYSTEMIC RACISM REVIEW COMMITTEE

March 15, 2022 12:00 PM

Zoom Webinar

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Worl called the Systemic Racism Review Committee to order at 12:01 p.m.

II. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Lisa Worl, Gail Cheney, Ivan Nance, Carla Casulucan, Kelli Patterson and Dominic Branson

Absent: Grace Lee

Staff/Other: Robert Palmer, Di Cathcart and Assemblymember Liaison Christine Woll

Other Attendees: Sherri Layne, Adrien Speegle, Dan Bleidorn, Katie Koester, Beth McEwen

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda approved as presented.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. 2022-02-15 Systemic Racism Review Committee Minutes-Draft

Minutes approved as presented.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Legislation Introduced at March 14, 2022 Regular Assembly Meeting

The following ordinance was up for introduction and the resolutions were on the consent agenda at the March 14, 2022 Regular Assembly Meeting. The SRRC checklists associated with the ordinance and each resolution are in this SRRC packet. Legislation and material associated with that legislation are located in the Assembly packet (copy/paste link into preferred browser for access to the Assembly agenda page):

<https://juneau.org/assembly/assembly-minutes-and-agendas>

Ordinance 2021-08(b)(am)(AD) An Ordinance Appropriating \$2,400,000 to the Manager for the Purchase of the Family Practice Building at 10301 Glacier Highway; Funding Provided by Hospital Funds.

Resolution 2981 A Resolution Supporting the People of Ukraine and Suspending the Juneau Sister City Relationship with Vladivostok, Russia.

Mr. Palmer read the ordinance and resolution into the record.

Assemblymember Woll gave a brief overview of the discussion had at the Assembly Human Resources Committee regarding Resolution 2981 and sits in committee until questions that arose around potential unintended consequences if resolution passed are resolved.

MOTION: by Ms. Casulacan to pull the resolution from the consent agenda for further discussion. ***Hearing no objection, motion passed.***

MOTION: by Ms. Patterson to approve the consent agenda as amended, ***hearing no objection, motion passed.***

Ms. Casulacan noted that looking at the SRRC toolkit and going through the questions it would be a yes to question one. Ms. Cheney stated it would be hard to judge what the benefits would be to passing the resolution without more background information. Ms. Patterson echoed Ms. Cheney's comments and asked what it would mean for the sister city relationship.

Mr. Nance stated he thought this resolution was out of SRRC's purview as a committee.

Chair Worl, while this resolution may be a political gesture, it is important to think about the systemic racism implications within our community when making a statement in support of or opposition to an event. Chair Worl trusts that Assemblymembers will have thoughtful discussion around that and what other communities we have sister city relationships with that we may do something in a similar situation.

Chair Worl stated that, like the Assembly, the SRRC would like more information around the impact or unintended consequences of the resolution. Chair Worl recommended the HRC use the SRRC toolkit as a guide to help answer the questions that arise around this resolution.

Assemblymember Woll, thanked committee members for the thoughtful discussion; if there is something the committee wants to pass on to the Assembly or to say that may be outside the scope of work of the committee, it is easier if the body makes a formal recommendation to pass on to the Assembly.

Mr. Branson agreed with Chair Worl and appreciated the language in the summary of content on the toolkit; and noted the resolution puts the blame on Putin and not the people of Vladivostok.

SRRC RECOMMENDATION TO THE ASSEMBLY: while the SRRC feels Resolution 2981 is generally outside of its purview, being political in nature, the committee recommends the Assembly use the SRRC toolkit as a guide, specifically the first two questions, as this or similar legislation is discussed and adopted.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

None

IX. COMMITTEE MEMBER / LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Ms. Cheney commented that the material in the packet assumes that we have the background information related to legislation being reviewed and requested that staff add a bit more of the “where is this coming from” information. Chair Worl recommended reviewing the foundational training material provided to the committee by staff and that as a committee we have committed to following the various Assembly Standing Committees and report to the SRRC any legislation or topics that will end up before the SRRC for review. Chair Worl outlined the school district’s legislative and budget review process.

Mr. Palmer stated that staff continues to strive to get as much information to the committee as possible and have staff on-hand to answer questions during SRRC meetings; especially if committee members can let us know ahead of time when they know they will be requesting to pull legislation for further discussion. Due to the timing of SRRC meetings, it has been a bit of a

struggle to have school district staff available to answer questions.

Assemblymember Woll empathized with Ms. Cheney stating she found relying on staff as her best tool; noting that this committee and the process is new and still an experiment; the more questions committee members ask will help staff and the Assembly make good decisions.

Ms. Cheney would like to encourage a broad spectrum of citizen engagement and to include public input into the SRRC and Assembly agendas. Chair Worl one hundred percent agreed on the need for more public participation and appreciated all of the committee discussion.

Chair Worl brought up the idea of having a work session to allow for deeper discussions as CBJ moves into the budget cycle in April.

X. NEXT MEETING DATE

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee, meeting adjourned at 12:53 p.m.