



## Racial Equity Committee

May 30, 2023, 7 – 8:00 pm

### Attended by:

Haile Sims, Chair	Carrie Paulette	Miel Castagna-Herrera	Micah Rehmert
Kate Raglow	Linda Mau	Diane Mora, Secretary	

### 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.

#### A. Meeting was called to order at 7:07 by Haile Sims.

#### B. Approve March/April/May minutes

A motion to approve the minutes was brought by Carrie Paulette.

Motion was seconded by Kate Raglow.

Unanimously approved.

#### C. Notes from the Chair – Haile Sims

We welcome Micah Rehmert to the committee. Micah introduced himself as the new City of RP Director of Finance and Assistant City Administrator. His primary role is to guide communities from conversation to projects, and advise how and when to take on projects. His current projects include budgeting, "The Rocks" and the first full service restaurant in Roeland Park, and assisting the Chief of Police with new vehicles.

#### D. Event Recaps

*Goal 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.*

- a. **Cinco de Mayo** – H. Sims attended the May First Fridays event in the Crossroads with coincided with Cinco de Mayo celebrations. He made a point of attending and supporting Cafe Corazon (owned by RP resident Miel Castagna-Herrera and her husband, Curtis). It was a great event.
- b. **Imagining the Indian Coffee and Conversation** – D. Mora, C. Paulette, & M. Castagna-Herrera  
7 people attended the conversation at Cafe Corazon. The conversation was engaging and thought provoking. An outcome of the conversation was next steps as allies; Carrie suggested that we find ways to educate students in K-12 to combat the erasure of native history and natives present. Carrie also is

looking for contacts to Quinton Lucas and Mahomes in order to encourage a public viewing of the movie. Miel indicated that UMKC and other entities have shown the movie. Diane committed to contacting the movie producers to ask what the cost is to host a showing in Roeland Park as part of an education and outreach experience. Miel suggested that showing the movie in November might fit well with a November history month and reminded us that one of the conversation attendees, Tom, suggested that we spearhead a community service project in November as a recognition of the issues still facing Native Americans.

**c. Racial Equity Roundtable – H. Sims**

Haile attended the most recent UCS Racial Equity training program whose topic was "Managing Challenges in Racial Equity Change". Haile showed several slide from the training that pertained to why people do not want to change their perspectives and the forms resistance often takes (defend, deny, and distance). Haile would like to connect the RP REC with folks from the PV Diversity Committee or a representative of the Johnson County Racial Equity work to learn how we can increase our impact in the community.

**E. Education Series – Haile Sims**

*Goal 3: Develop racial bias and equity education and outreach for city staff, elected/appointed officials and residents.*

**a. Pride and Juneteenth Plans:**

- i. The Kansas City Pride Celebration takes place 9, 10, and 11, with the parade being held on Saturday, June 10. Haile will send information about a location where the REC and residents can gather if they wish. He will also post information about the weekend's events on Social Media.
- ii. Juneteenth will also have several metro events. Those in and close to Roeland Park will also be posted on social media.

**b. August/September Events for Roeland Park**

- i. Please try to attend the Ethnic Enrichment festival in August.
- ii. The REC will have a table at the September R Park Concert.
- iii. October the REC will support the Faith in Blue event in connection with the Chief of Police. the event will be held at the City of RP Community Center on October 7, 11 AM - 1 PM. Micah will connect with the community center about utilizing the kitchen and bathrooms.

**c. Haile will try to schedule a joint meeting with Prairie Village Diversity Committee and members of the RP REC.**

**F. June Meeting In Person? -- Haile Sims**

- a. Juliana Garcia with SM Post will attend to update us on Shawnee Mission (postponed from this evening's meeting due to illness)
- b. Police Department will provide update on Faith in Blue event in October

**G. Other Matters**

Diane raised a question about ways of including more events of interest on social media. A brainstorming of ideas took place. Ultimately without an intern on staff at the city who could help maintain an exhaustive list on the City website, it was decided that focusing on only one or two "featured events" would be most feasible. Diane also asked the committee to think about how we can engage residents after these events to see how many folks are attending and what their takeaways have been.

Miel raised concerns and questions about the REC partnership with Faith in Blue given that a majority of traffic violations in RP are issued to POC. Should the RP REC committee develop and create a stand alone event? Haile feels that partnering on the Faith in Blue event gives police an opportunity to interact with POC as community members.

Kate Raglow encouraged all REC members to visit City Hall to pick up their RP t-shirt, and suggested we take a group photo for our webpage on the City of RP website. Haile also encouraged everyone to pick up their t-shirt.

#### **H. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was brought by Kate Raglow.

Motion was seconded by Miel Castagna-Herrera.

Unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m