

POULSBO CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP OF JULY 6, 2020 (remote meeting)

MINUTES

PRESENT: Mayor Erickson; Councilmembers Livdahl, Lord, McGinty, McVey, Musgrove, Phillips, Stern.

Staff: Housing, Health & Human Services Director Hendrickson (facilitator), City Clerk Fernandez, City Engineer Lenius, Planning Director Boughton, Parks & Recreation Director McCluskey, Human Resources Manager Kingery, Police Chief Schoonmaker, Prosecutor/Risk Manager Foster.

1. INTRODUCTION TO WORKSHOP

Facilitator Hendrickson called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and discussed the workshop's format and goals. She (and many Councilmembers) described the meeting as the beginning of a decision-making process; much more time will be needed to discuss ideas and Council action.

2. SESSION ONE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES REGARDING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVENESS IN POULSBO

Councilmembers discussed personal and community concerns about perceived/actual racism in Poulsbo. Many comments focused on the treatment of Suquamish (and other) Tribal members in the City's businesses and schools and dismissiveness toward Tribal history. Other comments focused on the City's growing Latino population and the challenge of combining inclusiveness with respect for the City's Nordic traditions.

Councilmembers discussed the difference between City/government action and broader based community action. Government to government outreach is important but there is a need for action that can be seen and understood by residents and visitors.

3. SESSION TWO: ACTION STEPS PROMOTING INCLUSIVITY, DIVERSITY, EQUITABLE TREATMENT OF RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

Councilmembers discussed several actions the Council might pursue including:

- Soliciting community input through a workshop, new committee, advisory group, or community survey about diversity and inclusiveness in Poulsbo
- Placing multi-language welcoming signs in several locations
- Opening Council meetings with an acknowledgment of historic Tribal lands
- Holding a public event celebrating Poulsbo's heritage and diversity

- Planning educational opportunities with local tribes and school districts; convening a meeting with the School Board about diversity/equity issues
- Holding a Council workshop to educate Councilmembers on police policy and hiring practices
- Holding a Council workshop to continue conversations about diversity and inclusiveness

Councilmembers were divided about the importance of taking action and the importance of soliciting more community input before taking action. One Councilmember warned about acting on some issues before the City's internal review of the July 3 event is completed.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The workshop concluded at 2:06 p.m.



Rebecca Erickson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Rhiannon Fernandez, CMC, City Clerk