

COMMUNITY VISIONING FORUM PLANNING COMMITTEE (CVFPC)

Tuesday, February 22, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Members

Eddie Crandell	JoAnn Saccato
Beniakem Cromwell	Tina Scott
Angela Cuellar-Marroquin	Dirk Slooten
Delores Farrell	Dale Stoebe
Carol Huchingson	Mireya Turner
Sally Peterson	Sue Williams

Call to Order/Roll Call/Introductions

Meeting was Called to Order by Dirk Slooten at 6:02pm.

Members Present: Delores Farrell; JoAnn Saccato; Tina Scott; Dirk Slooten; Mireya Turner

Consultant Selection Panelist Present: Jenni Byers, Community Development Director, City of Lakeport

Absent: Eddie Crandell; Angela Cuellar-Marroquin; Beniakem Cromwell; Carol Huchingson; Sally Peterson; Dale Stoebe; Sue Williams

Staff to Committee (present): Matthew Rothstein

Members of the Public Present and Contributing: Barbara Christwitz (Member of Community Call to Action, Citizens Caring for Clearlake, CC4C); Michael Green (City Councilmember, City of Lakeport)

Moment of Silence and Opening Offering

Intention for Moment of Silence:

Tina Scott invited those gathered to keep District 1 and 3 Supervisors Moke Simon and Eddie Crandell in their hearts; both had recently lost family members.

Opening Offering, JoAnn Saccato:

On this day, a year following our proclamation and commitment, we wholeheartedly continue towards ending and healing atrocities committed by our families and friends on our families and friends.

As we embark on this next phase, may we find the courage and strength to see what needs to be seen, to know what needs to be known, to end what needs to be ended.

And may we grow a vision to reveal the goodness that is aching to emerge from the very depths of our being, to embrace our shared humanity in all its variety and wonder, and to live our highest, collective potential for the greatest good of all.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE WAS RECITED

Dirk Slooten led the recitation.

Recognition of the 1-Year Anniversary of the Lake County Board of Supervisors' Proclamation Promoting Tolerance, Respect, Equity and Inclusion in Lake County

The Board's Proclamation:

<http://www.lakecountyca.gov/Assets/Departments/BOS/Committees/Community+Visioning/Resources/Proclamation.pdf>

Video Recording of the Proclamation Presentation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KnmnWM70JFI>

Board of Supervisors and Community Visioning Forum Planning Committee member Tina Scott noted this Proclamation was the only one she recalled that included action items, and voiced appreciation much work remained ahead, to engage in a public education process with our communities.

JoAnn Saccato voiced appreciation that each of Lake County's Cities had quickly acted to participate in the Community Visioning Forum Planning Committee, demonstrating their commitment.

Approve CVFPC Minutes – January 5, 2022 Meeting

Dirk invited comment (*from all present*) on the content of the Minutes. Matthew Rothstein displayed the minutes for review, and reminded that Meeting Minutes are published on the County of Lake website, once approved:

http://www.lakecountyca.gov/Government/Boards/Community_Visioning_Forum_Planning_Committee/Minutes.htm

Minutes were approved without changes. All members present voted to approve.

Motion by JoAnn Saccato. 2nd by Dirk Slooten.

Update on Agreement with Selected Forum Facilitators, Nicole Anderson and Associates

Matthew Rothstein updated the Committee that Presentations would be made to the Lakeport and Clearlake City Councils at their meetings Tuesday, March 1, and Thursday, March 3, respectively. Presentations were anticipated to be led by City representatives from the Community Visioning Forum Planning Committee, with questions being answered by Matthew, as needed. Additionally, a Cost-Sharing Agreement had been proposed to both Councils, stemming from discussion at Community Visioning Forum Planning meetings starting June 15, 2021, and the expressed conceptual support of the City representatives for the Cities to participate in costs associated with Forum Facilitation.

Update: Both presentations took place, with both cities approving the Cost-Sharing Agreement.

(a) Discussion of Next Steps for Community Visioning Forum planning process, in coordination with Facilitator and Continuation of Discussion on Hosting Forum; (b) Recommendations regarding structure of Committee(s), moving forward; (c) Group feedback to inform next steps

NOTE: As of the date of this meeting (February 22), enabling Agreements were not in place with Nicole Anderson and Associates Consulting, and Ms. Anderson was not present for this meeting.

Dirk Slooten voiced excitement for Ms. Anderson to begin her work, and an expectation that Nicole, as the expert, would have valuable input to inform next steps to be taken.

Delores Farrell expressed excitement that the Board's Proclamation included action steps, and a hope the Proclamation and Purpose Statement and Guiding Principles document would be shared with Ms. Anderson. "We have a list of things that are actually actions."

Those present affirmed this sense that action is expected, and the import of maintaining contact with determined principles and priorities. Discussion among Committee members and public participants also briefly touched on the fact some have voiced negative sentiments surrounding efforts to make Lake County more inclusive, and the call to action that represents, to respond with information and to encourage understanding.

JoAnn Saccato noted, "Stopping digging," and taking a deep look and earnestly disentangling issues can bring resolution, and raised the "Sarvodaya Peace Action Plan," a 500-year Peace Plan to promote restoration and well-being following many years of Civil War and conflict in Sri Lanka. This resource provides a fairly comprehensive overview, <http://classic.commonway.org/SriLankapeaceplan01.htm>, and the plan is more briefly summarized in other publications.

Dirk Slooten noted Committee members and County and City representatives would have a need to understand the timeline and expectations for the flow of Ms. Anderson's work, once Ms. Anderson was under contract and had some time to work on Lake County's project.

Committee members noted unique cultural considerations exist in Lake County, and it would reasonably take some time for any outside Consultant to acquaint to the needs of Lake County's communities. It was also acknowledged that government-driven change, alone, could not fully address gaps in cultural understanding, which was a factor underlying the community-based approach envisioned thus far.

A Committee member asked for clarification of the Board's expectations surrounding next steps for the Planning Committee, and Tina Scott indicated the scope was organizing the Forums, and any next steps, from the County's standpoint, would come back to the Board for direction. Similarly, next steps from City or Tribal governments would go before their Councils.

Those present were in concurrence a Countywide, County of Lake-facilitated Standing Committee would be needed to continue work advanced by the Community Visioning Forums. Such a recommendation would come before the Board of Supervisors once Forum Planning efforts were complete. Dirk Slooten voiced a desire to seek recommendations for structure of such a Committee from our Facilitator.

Discussion also included the tension between complex conversation happening most effectively, at times, in person, and lingering COVID-19 considerations.

[Continuation of Growth Opportunity \(Presented by Delores Farrell\): Edward T. Hall's "Cultural Iceberg," also known as "Iceberg Cultural Model"](#)

NOTE: The "Cultural Iceberg" model and other resources relevant to the Community Visioning Forum Planning Committee's efforts are linked here:

http://www.lakecountycalifornia.gov/Government/Boards/Community_Visioning_Forum_Planning_Committee/Resources.htm

The "Cultural Iceberg" had been introduced by Delores Farrell at the Committee's previous meeting on January 5, 2021, and that discussion is summarized in the adopted Minutes from that meeting:

<http://www.lakecountycalifornia.gov/Assets/Departments/BOS/Committees/Community+Visioning/Minutes/20220225.pdf>

Multiple members of the Committee and public participants shared personal experiences in reflecting on the “Cultural Iceberg” during this meeting (2/22), and those remarks are not recorded here.

However, it can be fairly summarized the diversity which is apparent on the surface does not fully explain the unique characteristics and cultural factors that inform the experiences of members of the Community Visioning Forum Committee and those members of the public present.

Further, discussion participants noted cultural differences can be readily misinterpreted, at times creating conflict. Some people connected to Lake County’s communities may not presently have interest in the furtherance of inclusive policies and practices.

Discussion reinforced the important of continued efforts to develop cultural competency and promote understanding.

JoAnn Saccato raised awareness of a PBS documentary, “The Origin of Race in the USA.” There was consensus among those present to watch this as a “Growth Opportunity” during the next Community Visioning Forum Planning Committee meeting:

<https://www.pbs.org/video/the-origin-of-race-in-the-usa-wbm41s/?source=social>

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by JoAnn Saccato at 7:41pm.