

**Bloomington Community Farmers' Market Advisory Council
Broadening Inclusion Subcommittee**

Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 6:00 pm

Broadening Inclusion Members Present

PDVNCH, Amanda Sheridan, Juliana Crespo, Eduardo, Judy Klein, Gracia Valliant, Bruce McCallister, Wil Stahly

Public Present

Amy and Lesamarie

Staff Present

Marcia Veldman

1. Call to Order

PDVNCH called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Minutes

The December minutes were approved.

3. Business

A. Meeting Dates 2020 – Marcia said that she will email the proposed Broadening Inclusion subcommittee dates. The proposed meetings will be on the second Thursday of each month from 5:15 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

B. Reflections on Park Board Meeting/Decision – Amy said that she wasn't surprised by what happened at the meeting. She said that she doesn't know what it will take for our community to address equity in a real way. She admired Lisa Thatcher's points, but she doesn't feel that there are a lot of people with power who are listening. Gracia then spoke and said she also wasn't surprised. She said she was pleased with the relative civility and was grateful. She was disappointed that the mayor left early and felt that the Parks Board and the Broadening Inclusion subcommittee can only address what's before us; the mayor and city leaders are the ones who make policy. Bruce said that there's a desire to get the Market back to where it was but noted that this isn't the right response. He discussed how schools are more segregated than they were during the Brown vs. Education Supreme Court case. He encourages the subcommittee to generate ideas and fan out to find others who can help implement ideas. Amanda said that the news article regarding the vendors incited the protestors, and they then called for a full boycott of Farmers Market. She said that the Mayor's statement shouldn't have been leaked before the meeting today. Marcia clarified that this was the Mayor's recommendation to the Park Board. Juliana then shared her thoughts regarding fears that Farmers' Market may stay the same or get worse if we can't find a way to bridge the community. PDVNCH discussed how it's important to be the voice for the minority; until we can find a way to give a voice to the minority,

changes will, unfortunately, be slow. Eduardo said he was happy that the City is continuing to run Farmers' Market; however, he was uncomfortable that mostly white individuals hold positions of power. He said that he was very uncomfortable with the way they spoke; he said that his main concern has to do with individuals on the boards and how they're appointed. Eduardo also said that the lack of time resulted in a sense of being rushed; he also observed bias in the way the board allowed certain individuals to speak more than others. Eduardo said that he would love to see what we can but is feeling uncertain. Judy said that she's glad the City is going to maintain management of the Market and also sees an opportunity for us to shift the rules for Market behavior and protest. She said that the protests have created the most conflict and fear. She said that our voice should be heard and that we need to be inclusive. Marcia said that she is glad the Market will continue as a public market and believes it plays a role in bringing the community together. She said that it will take time and is happy to be in the room with the subcommittee. Lesamarie, a member of PSB and NSFH, said that she attends Winter Market and assists the vendors in unloading the vehicles and helping to set up. She said that initially, she wanted the Market to be privatized until she started getting to know the vendors. She said that she does not want to privatize the Market because she supports the vendors; however, she wants Schooner Creek to be gone. She wants an inclusive market. Lesamarie also mentioned that a couple of men who assisted Schooner Creek during the market season have been harassing the protestors; she said that they are also armed and have been threatening Lesamarie's service animal. Wil said that he thinks the City has made the right decision. He is concerned that new vendor rules might make it easier for any vendor to get in trouble and also become a target. PDVNCH said that when it comes to these rules, targeting could become an issue. Bruce pointed out that the new vendor rules are focused on behavior, not beliefs. Wil asked whether we'd be here today if we were looking at actions and not beliefs. Judy said that joining a hate group is an action, an objectionable action. Amanda said that having rules in relation to behavior is problematic because perspectives vary so much.

C. Reflections on Bridges Initiative Report – Judy provided a brief summary regarding the Bridge Initiative Report. The mayor initiated the report and asked for the Farmers' Market to be the focus but was also interested in pervasive underlying issues. The Divided Community Project sent a mediator, Mr. Johnson, to Bloomington. Mr. Johnson interviewed 9 city officials, 37 community leaders (including religious leaders and organizational leaders), and others. He made a concerted effort to speak with more people of color. Mr. Johnson said that many of those he interviewed said they didn't attend the Market as a matter of choice as opposed to fear of rejection or a sense of being unwelcome. The conclusion was that there are larger issues at hand and that the Bloomington Market will not serve as collateral damage. Judy said that this kind of work will take years.

D. Review List of Ideas/Prioritize – PDVNCH directed us in reviewing the list of ideas for inclusion and diversity at Farmers' Market and discussing how we might put ideas into action. The first item on the list is meeting with groups representing marginalized populations. Gracia said she knows some marginalized individuals she could speak with. Eduardo pointed out that we may need to prioritize the list. Marcia said that the Parks and Rec staff will be working on a new marketing program and said she would love any feedback in relation to this. She said that as far as interviews, the Parks and Rec staff can

help with this as well. Judy said that she is also interested in meeting with groups representing marginalized populations. Gracia then offered to go to the Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs. We discussed visiting other commissions. Eduardo said that he would help find the right people who can determine demographic information. PDVNCH said he would be interested in helping out with social media; Juliana said she would as well. PDVNCH is also interested in helping out with increasing diversity in staff, entertainment, events, and the Farmers' Market Advisory Committee. Bruce said that encouraging community leaders to take a strong stance against white supremacy is his priority, and he has a list of all the people the subcommittee should ask to make a statement. Judy said that our subcommittee should draft our own statement. Eduardo said that his efforts coincide with Bruce's. Juliana said that the City could possibly lead the creation of a diverse, community mural. Marcia said that the City could choose one day on which to do something like this. Amanda would like to help with ensuring that protestors feel supported in what they do. Lesamarie then affirmed what Amanda said while pointing out that she has a good rapport with many of City staff members. Judy said that she would like to help develop the Market Ambassador program. Wil mentioned that we could work with Mother Hubbard's Cupboard in addition to working with Fairview and Templeton Elementary Schools. Juliana said there may be more we can do with Mother Hubbard's Cupboard. Marcia said that she is working on developing the Market Bucks program as well as the sensitivity and bias training for staff and vendors. Marcia mentioned that Broadening Inclusion could appear at the Farm Vendor Space Reservation Meeting.

4. Public Comment

Gracia said that is grateful to work with the Broadening Inclusion Subcommittee and that it is the best committee she's worked on.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45.