



## Community Services Committee

Town of Brighton, Monroe County, New York

Councilmember Robin Wilt, Chairperson

Councilmember Christine Corrado, Co-Chairperson

### **MINUTES**

**November 17, 2021**

**Location: Brookside Recreation Center, 220 Idlewood Road**

**Time: 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM**

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**PRESENT: Robin Wilt, Bill Moehle, Sue Barocas, Matt Beeman, Rebecca Cotter**

### **MEETING CALL TO ORDER – 10:05**

#### **OPEN FORUM**

- Sue Barocas (Meadowbrook CORD) delivered an impassioned appeal to take action to inform and engage the entire Brighton Community on the racial history of Brighton and what, if anything, to do about it. (See attached submitted comments)
- Discussion of local partnerships to target underserved communities with available funding through federal programs such as the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) or Community Reinvestment Act (CRA)
- The hope is to utilize federal funds creatively to address disparities and systemic inequity
- Discussion of IDEA Board and hiring of Town Inclusion, Diversity, Equity Officer in 2022, and how that role will help to continue the work begun by the IDEA Board and others toward wholistically examining Inclusion, Diversity and Equity in Town policy and practice

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

October 20, 2021: WM, RW

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **CONTINUING BUSINESS**

##### **Park Issues: Matt Beeman**

- With spate of mild weather, staff is continuing with ongoing maintenance of fields, equipment, facilities, etc...
- Staff has been able to get a head start on Spring maintenance: all fields aerated, over seeded and top dressed
- Veterans Lunch discussion, VA not inclined to participate in our traditional event this year amid COVID concerns and increased infection rates—especially given the vulnerability of the demographic
- Discussion of alternate options for an event when the weather is better and can be held outdoors: Possible May 21 – Armed Forces Day or Memorial Day

- Discussion of coat drive for Veterans working with the VA to provide cold weather items to veterans in need in the near term
- Lodge capacity has been at full occupancy, and we continue to evaluate facility usage and enforce masking requirements—especially with more inclement weather approaching
- Anticipate installation of mask dispensers in the lodges and continue to emphasize mask requirement for usage, while underscoring that violation of facility rules places security deposits at risk
- Initiated a discussion of Parks Department Titles and available openings, in light of hiring challenges faced nationwide
- Discussion of potential donation of sculptures to the Parks in the broader context of art installations within the community

### **Recreation Programs: Rebecca Cotter**

- Feasibility Study ongoing – survey, targeted stakeholder meetings have largely taken place and plans are set for a broader public meeting in December
- Engaged in Friday with Frosty on the Go/special event promotion
- Winter/Spring program planning and set up are underway
- Working with the Senior program to safely resume more in-person programming
- Discussion of Grab and Go program and challenges with ongoing quality and consistency of the product being provided
- Recreation Staff attending Genesee Valley Recreation and Parks Society Conference on Friday, 11/19/21 at the Chili Community Center

### **Winter Farmers' Market Update**

- Town held a kick-off meeting held for the next phase with designers
- Plans are being put together
- To conserve costs and stretch our grant funding, site work will be completed by town forces, as time allows, possibly starting this winter
- The current Farmers' Market will remain outdoors in an extended season to run through December

### **Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Advisory Board Update**

- Board and consultant are in the final stages of drafting the action plan and the website
- Final comments are being collected and integrated into the plan
- Anticipated completion November 22<sup>nd</sup> for both website and plan drafts, with potential to present to the Town Board by the end of the year

### **Community Choice/Community Solar Aggregation Update**

- No substantive updates
- Opt-in for Community Solar closes December 31, 2021
- Should go out to bid spring of 2022 on Community Solar supplier

### **CEC Community Priority Actions/Sustainability Funds Update**

- Updates provided on potential use of funds, in particular, the pollinator garden projects and supplemental funding for Climate Action Plan consultant

- Discussion on updated available funding
- Color Penfield Green is running a NYSERDA Community Campaign, and has offered to work with Brighton to mirror their program here in Brighton

#### **Urban League of Rochester/ESL/Town of Brighton First-time Homebuyer's Program Update**

- In the works, coming together
- Looking to assemble a targeted program based on input from Town of Irondequoit and Urban League of Rochester

#### **Adopt-A-Site Program Update**

- Work continues to review the Dobbs Ferry plan and customizing it to Brighton
- More updates to follow once attorney review is completed

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Secure Document Shredding and Electronics Recycling Event Calendar Rotation**

- Saturday/Sunday dates discussed for 2022- Sunday, May 15, 2022, will be the next event
- Moving forward, we anticipate that Spring events will be on Sundays, Fall will be Saturdays

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

#### **Friday with Frosty - ON THE GO - Take & Make Pick Up**

Brookside Community Center Winton Rd. Entrance  
Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 12:30 pm – 1:00 pm

#### **Friday with Frosty - ON THE GO - Zoom PJ Party**

Via Zoom  
Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

### **NEXT MEETING:**

#### **Wednesday**

December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
9:30 am: Brookside Recreation Center

Community Services Committee Meeting – Nov 17, 2021

Sue Barocas, 71 Fernboro Rd, [sbarocas@rochester.rr.com](mailto:sbarocas@rochester.rr.com)

Good Morning and thank you for allowing me this opportunity to speak.

I am here today to make an appeal to the Community Services

Committee and the IDEA Board to launch a campaign to inform and

engage the entire Brighton community regarding our racial history and

what, if anything, to do about it. As a committee that maintains liaison

relationships with a wide range of community and civic organizations,

you are in a unique position to co-ordinate such an effort.

For decades, a large swath of metropolitan Rochester's African

American community has been locked into poor, underserved, low-

achieving, high-crime neighborhoods. The role of the suburbs – and

Brighton is one of those suburbs – in perpetuating that isolation and

segregation, and its disastrous consequences for the African-American

community, is well documented – but it is not well known. It *is* the

untaught history – a history of ordinances and policies that were, at best, ignored and, at worst, supported.

Our schools have stepped up.

- a) In June of 2020, two weeks after the death of George Floyd, the streets flooded with protesters, The Monroe County Council of School Superintendents took an unprecedented public stand against racism and made a commitment to 'do better'.
- b) As part of the Superintendents' agenda, this Spring, Brighton's 11<sup>th</sup> grade American History classes will include the anti-racist units of study designed by a team from East High School under the direction of Dr. Shaun Nelms. Dr. Nelms has developed a massive, meticulously crafted, 84-page collection of videos, TED talks, newspaper articles, testimonials, and discussion questions. We could access that material for the community at large.
- c) For the last four years, students throughout Monroe County have held ROC2Change summit conferences on race. Twice a year, three to

five hundred students come together to attend lectures and discussions on race and diversity. The ROC2Change summits could be a model for an all-Brighton conference attended by representatives from our neighborhoods and the many groups with whom you liaise.

There have been some attempts to inform and engage Brighton residents in our racial history – Meadowbrook CORD, the Historic Brighton's Fall Newsletter, the Town video on Redlining – but they have not generated the kind of energy and momentum needed for sustained interest and real change.

I would like to see the launch of a concerted, coordinated, robust campaign to engage all- Brighton in meaningful discussions about the facts of our racial history, how best to rectify our past, and how to embrace a more equitable future. A collaborative effort by the Community Services Committee, the IDEA Board, and the schools could make a community-wide educational endeavor a reality.

A well-informed Brighton can 'do better'.