

VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS EQUITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, December 18, 2023
Via Zoom – 12:00 p.m.

Minutes

Board Members Present: Kristin Atwood, Elaine Haney, Alyssa Johnson, Josie Leavitt, Matthew LeFluer, Amanda Jordan Smith, Al Vogele, Sarah Wraight, Deb Wright (arrived at 12:33)

VLCT Staff Present: Ted Brady, Jeremy Weiss, Abby Friedman, Bonnie Waninger

Agenda Item # 1. Call to order by the chair

The meeting began with no quorum present. In the absence of a quorum, no business was conducted. Ted explained in the absence of either co-chair and a quorum, the time could be used to discuss the Welcoming and Engaging Cohort agenda item for informational purposes only. All committee members and staff present introduced themselves. At 12:33 p.m. Alyssa Johnson called the meeting to order, and a quorum was established.

Agenda Item # 2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

Elaine Haney moved to take up approving past meeting minutes and the Welcoming and Engaging Communities agenda items only. Sarah Wraight seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #3. Approval of Minutes

Deb Wright moved to approve the minutes of October 23rd, 2023. Matthew LeFluer seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously with Josie Leavitt, Elaine Hainey, and Kristin Atwood abstaining.

Agenda Item # 4. Executive Director Update

No action taken.

Agenda Item # 5. Welcoming and Engaging Communities Cohort

Ted explained there was no requirement of this committee to take any formal action. Instead, he is hoping to have a conversation with the committee that he could then share with the Board of Directors. Ted described what the Welcoming and Engaging Communities Cohort is and that the funding source comes from a PACIF grant.

Ted explained VLCT received 12 applications for 8 spots and is seeking a recommendation from the committee of which applicants should be selected. Amanda Jordan Smith advocated for Hartford to be included in the Cohort. Alyssa Johnson expressed her support for including more than 8 applicants if possible. Josie Leavitt expressed her support for the inclusion of those members who have not yet had the chance to participate. She asked if there was a possibility of adding a second cohort for those members who might be ready for more advanced work.

Ted explained that there isn't the capacity to do the Inclusion and Belonging survey for all 12 members. Additionally, to include all 12 members, he would have to cut some of the funding set aside that was going to be used to fund a consultant that would help the league answer questions from members on equity topics.

Thereupon a quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order, past minutes were approved, and the Community Cohort discussion continued.

Sarah Wraight expressed support for Hartford's inclusion in this next round. Kristin Atwood expressed support for all 8 new town applicants and including Hartford to be forwarded on to the board for approval. Matthew LeFluer expressed support for the 8 new applicants being approved. Sarah Wraight expressed support for funding all applicants. Alyssa Johnson expressed support for funding all full members.

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Josie Leavitt expressed support for Milton despite their application only listing 2 participants.

Deb Wright moved to recommend the VLCT board to approve all members who have applied for the Welcoming and Engaging Communities Cohort, based on available funds. Al Vogeles seconded the motion. Thereupon the motion passed on a roll call of 8 yes votes and 1 no vote. Josie Leavitt explained her vote as follows: "I think funding everyone makes sense, but I don't see funding two groups who have already done it as a good use of funds when they just finished it. I think that that could be something we get grant money for and create an advanced cohort." Ted said he would forward this recommendation to the VLCT Executive Committee for approval.

Agenda Item # 6. 2024 Equity Work Plan

No action taken.

Agenda Item # 7. Equity Subcommittees

No action taken.

Agenda Item # 8. Committee Updates and Discussion

No action taken.

Agenda Item # 8. Adjourn

Al Vogeles moved to adjourn. Amanda Jordan Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Weiss

Membership and Administrative Coordinator

As approved by the Equity Committee on January 16, 2024.