

Minutes from Hardwick Equity Committee spacial meeting By ZOOM, 4/19:

Attending: Lucian Avery, Vice Chair; Brad Smith (notetaker). Absent: Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, David O'Brien, Chip Troiano

Guests attending: David Upson, Hardwick Town Manager; Dr. David Baker, temporary OSSU liaison

Called to order at 3:38, Lucian presiding.

Lucian presented Peace & Justice Center quotes for Juneteenth training and evening panel: \$1,775. Also, quote from caterer, Harmony's Kitchen: \$1,160 (no tax).

Since the two quotes in total exceed the committee's entire budget, discussion about how to reduce. David shared the complete invoice, suggested cutting the food budget in half, also voiced concern about optics of using a caterer from Winooski. Lucian offered that the food was for both events, training and panel, and that the caterer was a Black-owned business the committee felt appropriate to use in this situation.

David stated that there is no need for the food to be served to the town road crew & staff training, given the scheduled time of the event (mid-afternoon), and that food is never served at trainings. Expects 10-15 town employees to attend training. All agreed to reduce the expected number for the food to 30 and to adjust the cost for food accordingly. Discussion about whether the cornbread should be made locally to further reduce costs.

David expressed concern that the committee use its current budget entirely, stating that the committee's budget for the next fiscal year has been reduced to \$2,000 from its current \$2,500 because the committee isn't using all of its allocation. Brad asked whether the town could provide some funding for this event, particularly the training, since that is part of the town's contract negotiations. He offered that there might be other events the committee could use its funding for in addition to the Juneteenth plan that would use the rest of the funds. David said that some funding could be made available from the road crew's training budget, but that the committee would need to schedule its additional events prior to the end of the FY.

Brad suggested that the committee pay the food deposit required out of its budget; all agreed. David urged the committee to begin promoting this event very soon, and to include in the promotion the reasoning for using the out-of-town caterer (minority-owned business). All agreed.

Additional discussion was about Monday's meeting, specifically the possibility of having a local panelist. Dr. Baker agreed to send contact information for a local possibility to Ceilidh as soon as possible so that the committee can know whether she is available, and look for someone else if she is not. All agreed that she, or whoever is the local panelist, should be paid the same amount for participating as the other panelists from the Peace & Justice Center. (Not sure how much that would be.)

Adjourned at 4:04.