

# INCLUSIVITY TASK FORCE MEETING

April 19, 2023

Minutes

Chair: Kate Baxter-Kauf

Secretary: Catherine Plessner

Staff Contact: Alexa Golemo

Attendees: Alexa Golemo, Craig Skone, Marsha Barry, Deb Burns, Alyssa Mitchell, Kate Baxter-Kauf, Catherine Plessner

## **I. Introductions**

There were no new attendees.

## **II. Approval of March 2023 Minutes**

Motion for approval made and carried.

## **III. Just Deeds Coalition & the City of Saint Paul**

<https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/cityattorney/civil/discharging-racial-covenants>

We talked earlier about how to get rid racial covenants on home in our neighborhood and now the City of St. Paul has caught up to us. They have finally put together its Just Deeds coalition process for removing racially restrictive covenants from the deed on your house. If you go to this website to find out if you have a racially restrictive covenant it links you to Mapping Prejudice's information to show if they have determined that you have one on your deed. We know from St. Catherine's research that this information is incomplete and does not guarantee that a racial covenant is not on your deed. Ramsey County deeds are harder to read because: A. They were not scanned as uniformly as Hennepin County's and B. They used different language than the Hennepin County deeds so the algorithms used to determine the covenants didn't capture many of the Ramsey County racial covenants. We will get many questions from neighbors about how to really know if their house has a Racial Covenant Deed. It would be a good to do a summer event, like we did last summer, to offer people the opportunity to ask questions. It would be helpful to have a handout with instructions about the steps to find deeds. There's also a Ramsey County service called Record Ease that is a subscription service to pull deeds. One of our members has used it get all of his information so he can be confident that he doesn't have any covenants on his home. He found out about the practice of putting racial covenants on property that stayed with homes as they were built. He also learned that the racial covenants are not removed by deletion but a rider is added to the deed that negates the racial covenant. One of the reasons Just Deeds said they have decided not to remove the

language from the deed is because they don't want to erase history and pretend that it never happened so future historians can understand that history. We'd also like to find a way to engage the community in an interesting way to learn about the what happened in the past. Members of Housing and Land Use are also more mind-full of who may be missing from their discussions.

#### **IV. Equitable Development Scorecard.**

Joo Hee Pomplun, the Executive Director at The Alliance, is speaking at our Annual Meeting on April 20th. We want to keep the energy alive and think about what next steps look like. We want to move towards the Equitable Development Scorecard, but aren't quite sure how to do that. We don't want to get stuck doing nothing just, because we aren't sure exactly what to do. We want people to be excited about it but the predominant reaction is, "I'm not against it, I just don't get it." Joo Hee speaking at the meeting is a good jumping off point for thinking about what questions we have about what can be our next steps, both in the committee and in our community.

We plan to have WSCO come to our ITF to ask them questions and really learn about the process that they used for creating their Scorecard. Their process may not look like ours will be but it's good to lay some ground work of what has been successful and challenging for others to deal with in their processes.

Take a trip to the Historical Library to help create a foundation of the history of Macalester Groveland that's helpful for people to understand where we've been, where we are, and where we're going as a framework. Potentially we may bring in another facilitator who has more of an expertise in Scorecards to help us design our engagement and facilitate at least the first few meetings.

We're working on the Rubric/Guide and everyone is practicing with it. We can use that to do post-analysis of events to ask: Who was there?, Who did we notice was NOT there?, Can we think of reasons WHY they weren't there?, and Is there anything we might be able to do about that? We can use the same methodology when planning events. The Transportation Committee has really implemented using the Rubric/Guide methodically in every conversation they have at every meeting since February. Hugo is convinced that it led them in the context of the Summit Bike Trail discussions led them to recognize the previously unrecognized impact on youth, a group we need to think about when designing streets. We are looking forward to our Annual Meeting and excited to have more diverse candidates running for our Board Elections.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Plessner