



COOK COUNTY COMMISSION ON SOCIAL INNOVATION

Thursday, January 21, 2021

4:00 p.m – 6:00 p.m

Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The January 21st meeting of the Cook County Commission on Social Innovation was convened. The meeting was chaired by Commissioner Alma Anaya, Chair of the Cook County Commission on Social Innovation. This meeting was open to the public.

Commission Members Present:

- Ana Guajardo
- Christyn Freeman
- Harold Rice
- Harry Alston
- Howard Males
- John Yonan
- Morgan Malone
- Wendy Raymer
- Xochitl Espinosa
- Xochitl Flores
- Rodger Cooley
- Geri Aglipay
- Sol Anderson
- Alma E. Anaya

Commission Staff Present:

- Yesenia Lopez

2. Public Comment

No public comment was received this meeting.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Rice moved to review minutes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Males. Minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

4. Presentation on Digital Equity Efforts in Cook County by Howard Males, Cook County Council on Digital Equity and Casey Sorensen of PCs for People

- Over 40% of unconnected Illinois households are in Cook County
- In 2019, President Preckwinkle established Digital Equity as a priority for Cook County

Initiatives to build Digital Equity in Cook County

- Enable high-speed Digital Access: Connectivity enables the usage of Digital Devices; Partnerships with Service Providers have expanded Wifi access.
- Provide affordable Digital Devices: By providing computers, communities have access to educational, economic and societal opportunities.
- Increase Digital Proficiency: County may work with anchor institutions to train residents in operation of computer devices.
- Improve Digital Well-Being: Cook County can promote equity by upskilling residents in online resources that can improve their quality of life.

5. Presentation on PCs for People by Casey Sorensen, CEO of PCs for People

- PCs for People Recycles Business Electronics and provides refurbished devices to low-income households.
- Over 115,000 Computers have been distributed, over 96,000 Families Connected to internet and over 7 million Pounds of Technology has been recycled.

6. Committee Updates

- Staff has further studied the ordinance that establishes the Cook County Commission on Social Innovation and have determined that committees are non-voting. Therefore, minutes and other motions must not be voted.
- The Social and Human Capital Committee is working on developing a 2021 Agenda. The Committee intends to focus on initiatives that allow the county to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic and is focusing on workforce initiatives. Additionally, the Committee discussed what guiding principles the members wanted to follow when revising racial equity policies.
- The Financial Capital Committee is planning to work on extending the PCs for people initiative for Small Businesses. Also, the committee is closely following the development of the new round of PPP.
- The Public Capital Committee is working on the development of the fair transit program. The three-year pilot of this program was launched on January 4th.
- The Intellectual Capital Committee currently has no updates.

7. New Business

- Members discuss the importance of sharing the information of the new round of PPP.
- Commissioner Anaya announces that the Cook County Commission on Social Innovation will be shifting to a bimonthly schedule. Committees will decide if they prefer to meet on a monthly or bimonthly schedule.
- Commissioner Anaya announces that the schedule for future meetings will be sent over email.

8. Adjourn

Commissioner Yonan moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Raymer. Meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.