

**Concord United Committee**  
**Tuesday, April 23, 2024**  
**Virtual Meeting (TEAMS) 6:00 p.m. EST**

**Members Present:** (13 + Liaison)

Jaime Brown (liaison), Ann Fleming, Bertram Hinton, Jr. (co-chair), Bob Anderson, Cecilia Plez, Ingrid Nurse, Jaymond Bryant-Herron, Kay Tembo, Lamarie Austin-Stripling (co-chair), Michelle Joshua, Quinton Locklear, Robert Kirk (co-chair), Theresa Scott-Stills, Wendy McConnell.

**Members Not Present:** (10)

Aimy Steele, Amos McClorey, Cindy Hanson, Douglas Carroll, Gracie Galloway, Greg Mills, Rayshion Sashington, Roy Hawkins, Sandra Torres, Tina Boyer.

**Visitor:** (2)

Dr. Tara Bengle (Community Speaker – Gibson Mill Community Assn. President) and Regina Mitchell (Community Contributor – Gibson Mill Community Assn. Vice President)

**Call to Order:** The Meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm by Robert Kirk.

**Discussion:**

- We will meet virtually again in May and resume in-person meetings in June when dinner will be served.
- Moment of silence in remembrance of Cathy McClory, Amos McClory's wife, who passed away on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.
- Ingrid Nurse made a motion to accept the February 2024 Minutes as presented and Lamarie Austin-Stripling seconded the motion.
- Bob Anderson made a motion to accept the March 2024 Minutes as presented and Ann Fleming seconded the motion.
- Lamarie Austin-Stripling presented NC State data points disaggregated by race and ethnicity by gender for police traffic stops for the city of Concord for 5 years including years 2019 to 2023. Data also included Enforcement Actions for traffic stops which are also disaggregated.
  - Cecelia Plez was interested in the proportionality of the data trends based on the population
  - Bob Anderson called attention to the fact that ethnicity (Hispanic) is not mutually exclusive to any one race and can impact the percentages.
  - Robert Kirk commented that he would like for the committee to explore how someone's race or ethnicity is determined during traffic stops.
  - Tara Bengle agreed with Cecelia Plez that in analyzing the disaggregated data that the committee compared the data to the overall disaggregated population data.
- Jaime Brown introduced guest speaker and presenter Dr. Tara Bengle, Community Development Geographer, to talk about lack of access to healthy foods in her community, Gibson Mill neighborhood.
  - PowerPoint slides provide greater detail of demographics
  - Gibson Village population is approximately 4,000 people
  - Review of possible individual barriers, policy and systemic barriers
  - Robert Kirk asked about the Food Lion market radius that leaves out portions of Logan as well as city council who are considering whether to allow chickens for residential property owners.
  - What food is available?
    - Several small mini-marts or ethnic grocery stores
      - Lupita's Supermarket
      - United Food Mart worked with Cabarrus Health Alliance (CHA) in their healthy store initiative several years ago using the Reach grant from the CDC

- helping to market fresh foods to customers and purchase new refrigeration and add a butcher. Transformed the store from unhealthy foods to a healthy outlet.
    - Partnered with The Bowl Mobile Market using funding to setup at Forest Hill United Methodist campus on Kerr St. for several years during COVID. Included rescued food from farmers, Trader Joe's, etc. and shoppers could take what they like. There were not enough donations to sustain the market as it became more expensive to operate. This arrangement works well for emergency scenarios but is not sustainable or effective since it only makes food available once a week for a few hours.
    - City of Concord on McGill Avenue and Allison to develop 2 properties, with one potentially developed as a food service incubator with a commercial kitchen for people who would like to pursue a business or careers in food service and the other property possibly used for food distribution.
  - Potential food access point might also include:
    - A parcel the city acquired (former convenient store) on the corner of Kerr and Academy. There were conversations about putting some sort of food-oriented establishment there.
    - The Clearwater campus has a market space originally intended to be used as a farmer's market. Clearwater also has a community kitchen. Kerr St. United Methodist Church has a commercial kitchen and often host community dinners.
  - Food systems are a complex network which means addressing food security is not solved by simply adding a grocery store when you have systemic and individual barriers. It's helpful to understand it as an entire system and understand how all the pieces work together in order to come up with effective solutions.
  - Regina Mitchell added that expanding city ordinances to include chickens would help increase food access.
  - Examples of systems change were also shared on the slide deck.
  - Bob Anderson brought up Second Course who operate at the old Long school who are primarily focused on serving the formerly incarcerated. Their leadership are open to partnerships with other initiatives.
- Quinton Locklear asked if there were any success stories of using underutilized properties for food desert relief that we could learn from.
  - Yes. In west Charlotte a community started an urban agriculture/youth program. The youth are paid to grow the food and they have a community owned co-op market. This intervention is shifting the community's approach to eating with cooking demonstrations, integrative health education, and exposure to growing foods. Not all community members have appliances and tools in their kitchen that well-resourced individuals might have (e.g., microwave or a hotplate).
  - Rev. Bertram Hinton asked Dr. Bengle to share the entire slide deck for our subcommittee review.
  - We understand what is needed in Gibson Village may look different than what is needed in Logan, realizing that both communities' food access is a complex systems issue.
- Rev. Bertram Hinton announced that Robert Kirk's term ends on April 30, and he has elected to step down from the committee. The Co-chairs have invited Bob Anderson to fill the role of Co-chair and he has accepted and will assume that role in May.

**Next Steps:** Lamarie Austin-Stripling explained that Jaime Brown invited Urban Planners from the Baltimore area, Nemo and Jazz, to speak to the group in May. Rev. Bertram Hinton announced that subcommittee work will begin on the 2nd Tuesday in May, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 2pm for the first nine members who self-selected to be on the food desert subcommittee. Next month's meeting will be May 28th on Teams (virtual).

Lamarie Austin-Stripling motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Kay Tembo at 7:05.

Minutes prepared by Wendy McConnell, Secretary.

eSigned via SeamlessDocs.com  
*Lamarie Austin-Stripling*  
Key: dbc1d30f-f304-4217-8084-f45187b8e583

Lamarie Austin-Stripling: Co-Chair Concord United Committee

09-25-2024

Date

eSigned via SeamlessDocs.com  
*Robert Kirk*  
Key: 2fd865a-7f3d-43df-a90e-d00ed1a234f5

Robert Kirk: Co-Chair Concord United Committee

10-03-2024

Date

eSigned via SeamlessDocs.com  
*Bertram D Hinton, Jr.*  
Key: a1017ba8-c86b-40f7-b946-b373253c5471

Bertram Hinton: Co-Chair Concord United Committee

10-03-2024

Date