

**Concord United Committee**  
**Tuesday, January 23, 2024**  
**Room 330 and Zoom Room 6:00 p.m. EST**

**Members Present:** (17 + liaison)

*In-Person:* Jaime Brown (liaison), Lamarie Austin-Stripling (co-chair), Robert Kirk (co-chair), Ann Fleming, Amos McClory, Bob Anderson, Ingrid Nurse, Kay Tembo, Quinton Locklear, Rayshion Sashington, Sandra Torres, Tina Boyer, Wendy McConnell

*Virtual:* Aimy Steele, Cecilia Plez, Douglas Carroll, Michelle Joshua, Theresa Scott-Stills

**Members Not Present:** (7)

Rev. Bertram Hinton, Jr. (Co-chair), Cindy Hanson, Greg Mills, Jaymond Bryant-Herron, Lyndia Gabriel, Gracie Galloway, Roy Hawkins

**Visitor(s):** (1)

Tara Bengle

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Lamarie Austin-Stripling.

**Discussion:**

- Review of meeting agenda by Lamarie.
- Tina Boyer made a motion to accept October 2023 Minutes as presented and Amos McClory seconded the motion
- Amos McClory made a motion to accept November 2023 Minutes as presented and Robert Kirk seconded the motion
- Robert Kirk summarized the accumulative data collected from November meeting's activity where committee members listed their equity concerns on post-it notes which were collected and categorized (General/Police/Language & Culture/Human Resources/Food/Transit/Council Procedural/Housing)
  - Robert Kirk encouraged members to attend Concord 101 as an important learning experience in how the city operates (12-week course).
  - Robert Kirk will share the data collection with all the members via email
  - Jaime Brown explained the status of the Language Access Plan (In partnership with Sandra Torres and Natalie Marles with El Puente Hispano) to be presented to Council for approval in Feb for implementation July 2024. Plan will result in every major City announcement to be in English and Spanish then Hindi and ASL to be incorporated in future years.
  - Discussion about whether City Ordinances/Laws would be a possible contributor to the production of food deserts – Lamarie Austin-Stripling initial research diving into references from source documentation that indicate this is a worthy path to explore and will begin by requesting more information from both National Parks Service and National Register of Historic Places concerning grocery retailer ordinances.
  - Discussion about Farmer's Markets acceptance of EBT, limited time access, affordability, and policy barriers for farmers
  - Discussion about properties owned by City on 238-240 McGill Ave. to help with food accessibility – Tara Bengle mentioned a Gibson Village community meeting to update members on this endeavor following tonight's meeting.
- Lamarie Austin-Stripling explained Co-chairs decision for the Committee's primary research focus to begin with food deserts which will guide our recommendations in 2024.
- Wendy McConnell shared the Ronnie Long story as well as the city's acknowledgement of past harms. She emphasized the complexities of simultaneously celebrating when the city gets it right while also

keeping a clear perspective of harms that continue to go unmarked, unacknowledged and with no redress.

- Dr. Aimy Steele mentioned the systemic harm done to Logan community by 70+ statutes that historically prevented development and now this community faces gentrification. It's accumulative harm across systems. Amos McClory highlighted diverted tax dollars from Logan to Afton community and that it has been 53 years since you could buy a loaf of bread in Logan Community. Tara Bengle emphasized the impact segregation has had on housing, education, zoning, and all of it has impact on community cohesion.
- Tara Bengle reminded us that not only do our zip codes determine our education outcomes, but zip codes also determines our age of death.

**Next Steps:** Closing next steps led by Robert Kirk

- Prior to our next full committee meeting, outstanding items like Code Enforcement & Traffic Stops data questions that have not yet been answered to our satisfaction will be addressed by Co-chairs and Jaime Brown at a meeting with Council representatives. Co-chairs will report their findings at the February 27 meeting.
- February 27 meeting will host Logan Community Association leader(s) invited to speak in order to gather historic information that may shed light on food access inequity in Logan Community (known food desert). The hope is to have AJ Clark speak and any other Logan leader who has historic knowledge that is helpful.
- February 27 meeting Co-chairs will assign subcommittees to divide upcoming research
- March 26 meeting we will host the Director of Planning, Steve Osborne, to present City's perspective regarding food deserts and any planning/zoning and/or historical data that will help our discovery.
  - Tara Bengle agreed to lend her expertise (Community Development Geographer with substantial experience focused on food/health security) in obtaining data and preparing strategic questions for Steve Osborne's visit.

**Closing:** The next full committee meeting will be February 27 at 6pm.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Lmarie Austin-Stripling and seconded by Quinton Locklear at 6:45pm.

Minutes prepared by Wendy McConnell, Secretary.

eSigned via SeamlessDocs.com  
*Lamarie Austin-Stripling*  
Key: dbc1d30f-c304-4217-8084-f45187b9e883

09-25-2024

Lamarie Austin-Stripling: Co-Chair Concord United Committee

Date

eSigned via SeamlessDocs.com  
*Robert Kirk*  
Key: 2fd8f85a-7f3d-43df-a90e-d00ed1a238f5

10-03-2024

Robert Kirk: Co-Chair Concord United Committee

Date

eSigned via SeamlessDocs.com  
*Bertram D Hinton, Jr.*  
Key: a1017ba8-c86b-40f7-b946-b373253c8471

10-03-2024

Bertram Hinton: Co-Chair Concord United Committee

Date