

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, March 17, 2021, 4:00pm**

PRESENT: M. Walters (Acting Chair), M. Madison, R. Wesley, G. Glasper, J. Goggin, C. Guy, E. Harriss, Ryan Kneedler, H. Mueller-Jones, J. Eric Foster, B. Meyer, M. Babcock.

ABSENT: K. Prenzler (Chair)

OTHERS: J. Hansen, A. Schoeberle, R. Henke

Roll Call: Taken

Mr. Walters Chaired the meeting, called the meeting to order

Public Comment:

Dear Madison County Board Members,

I am writing because I am very concerned about comments by the president of our community recreational district board and the chairman of the Madison County Transit Board, Ron Jedda, towards a post by Collinsville High School students. It was apparent that the Black Student Union was fundraising by selling t-shirts and sweatshirts via the Collinsville Connections. Ron Jedda stated that "Black Lives Matter is a divisive organization involved with rioting, destruction of property, and injury to innocent people. I don't condone those tactics and actions, and neither should other people."

As a high school parent, I am concerned that someone who represents Collinsville and Madison County has decided that the Black Student Union is a part of what he has decided is a divisive organization, and that BLM is being represented as a violent organization. The BLM protests have been studied extensively, and it is well known that 93% of demonstrations and marches were non-violent. One of these marches occurred in Collinsville in June of 2020, and there were no such concerns. I know that one of the other recreation board members, was also present at this march and can attest to the peaceful march.

It is time for such antiquated notions be put to rest. This board needs to consider the ramifications when a member sees fit to denigrate a community high school group on a public page. He also stated that "Identity politics is not a way to create good will." To be honest, I had no idea what this term meant. However, an adult in what seems to be a fairly important position (elected by the people?) in our community seems to be guilty of creating bad will, specifically against Black teens. I would love to see our boards truly serve the people it represents, including people of color.

I would like to suggest that this board member, possibly along with other board members, receive some training in diversity. There is the National Conference for Community and Justice of Metropolitan St. Louis (NCCJ St. Louis) that helps with organizational training. The local NAACP has been contacted and they have made a referral for training via SIUE.

I would hope that this individual who is supposed to be representing Collinsville and Madison County would apologize to the Black Student Union for his inappropriate remarks. It is disheartening to see an adult that is an elected official denigrate teenagers who are trying to fundraise, to support various community projects including the local blessing boxes. The board members may also want to look at the slide show/video the Black Student Union created and is posted on the Collinsville High School website, as an example of another

project they have put together. I look forward to hearing about a possible solution to a problem that Ron Jedda created in our community, specifically with our high school students.

Sincerely, Cynthia Klein-Webb

Minutes: Erica Harriss noted that the Minutes dated Wednesday, March 11, 2020 were previously approved at the August 10th, 2020 meeting.

Minutes: The Wednesday, August 10, 2020 minutes were approved.

Closed Session: Mr. Walters ask for a motion to go into Closed Session to discuss pending or imminent litigation pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2 (c) (11)

A motion was given by Mr. Madison, second by Mr. Foster. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Roll call: Roll call was as taken, a motion was given by Mr. Madison, second by Mr. Foster to go to the closed session. **MOTION CARRIED.**

New Business: None

Adjourned: Mr. Meyer moved, seconded by Mr. Foster to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**