

VILLAGE OF MCFARLAND

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Minutes**

*Monday, February 16, 2026 - 6:00 PM*

**1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL.**

Chairperson Miguel Peña called the regular meeting of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee to order at 6:00 PM in Community Room.

Members present: Miguel Peña, Kathy Annen, Monica Bruce, Mona Nelson, Kelly Thompson, and Meghan Kelling-Shanks.

Members not present: None.

Staff Present: Village Administrator Matt Schuenke.

**2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.**

a. *This is an opportunity for attendees to provide public comment on matters that are not on the agenda. Attendees desiring to provide public comment on specific items on the agenda may do so at the time that agenda item is brought up. Zoom attendees wishing to speak should type their name, address, and the relevant agenda item in the Q&A feature within the online meeting platform. Zoom attendees may also register in support or opposition of an item through the Q&A feature. In person attendees should fill out a public comment form and turn into the meeting chairperson. When you are called upon to speak, state your name, address, and provide your public comment. Please adhere to the 3-minute time limit. Written comments will not be read into the record during the meeting but may be sent to [DEI@mcfarland.wi.gov](mailto:DEI@mcfarland.wi.gov) to be included with the agenda materials.*

None.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.**

a. *Motion to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2025 meeting.*

Motion by Peña, second by Kelling-Shanks, to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2025 meeting. Motion carries 6 - 0 - 0 by acclamation.

**4. BUSINESS.**

a. *Discussion and action regarding Resolution #2026-03: a resolution repudiating racial and discriminatory covenants in Dane County historic property records.*

The Village Administrator presented a proposed resolution that rejects historic language in property records that limit an individuals ability to purchase a property based on their race, religion, country of origin or other demographics. The resolution is presented as a way for the Village to reject these discriminatory practices today and encourage property owners that unknowingly have this language attached to their property the ability to file a Discharge and Release as additional repudiation of these illegal requirements. Dane County has contacted all property owners, and something the resolution also encourages. The Committee discussed the program and proposed resolution encouraging that an additional whereas be included to send the resolution once adopted to State Representatives to encourage their work to further remove these covenants where possible.

Motion by Peña, second by Nelson, to recommend approval to the Village Board regarding Resolution #2026-03, a resolution repudiating racial and discriminatory covenants in Dane County historic property records. Motion carries 6 - 0 - 0 by acclamation.

b. Discussion regarding position planning related to resources for DEI Staffing.

The Village Administration noted that the DEI Strategist position is currently vacant. The Village Board will meet as the Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, February 24th to further discuss the position, its duties, and role within the organization. Any time there is a vacancy we will look at these areas and based on our experience note if any changes should be made to the position. Following the Committee of the Whole's work, they intend to forward their recommendations to the DEI and Personnel Committee's for review before taking any action that might be considered in the future. The Village Administrator will continue to fill in during the vacancy. No action was taken on this item.

c. Update and discussion regarding engagement with McFarland High School.

The Village Administrator talked about past conversations about advancing engagement with the High School in a few areas. Trustee Peña and Administrator will meet with the Equity Coalition from the High School in February. This is an effort to introduce ourselves to setup a larger conversation with this group of students. Additional opportunities include the Youth Unity Summit is coming up on February 26th, we're working on a meeting with the Committee and Students in the Spring, and then finally figuring out how we further support their efforts for Juneteenth. The Committee discussed this and supported continuing these conversations. The Committee requested if the Superintendent could attend a future meeting and provide a presentation that he made to the School Board in January. The Administrator will follow up to see if that is possible for the March meeting, and we'll continue to plan these areas of engagement. No action is needed on this item.

d. Discussion regarding event planning and education/awareness updates.

The Village Administrator went over the updated event planning and education/awareness as an update on our progress. We are working with the Communications Division to continue to fulfill days, weeks, and months selected. Most things will continue as they have previously, and then new items will be updated in a similar format. There continues to remain a desire to advance the World Day of Cultural Diversity. Staff will review our platform for this and see what opportunities could exist to continue this for 2026. This will be reviewed further at the March meeting. No further action on this item.

e. DEI Committee Updates: Committee members will have the opportunity to share community updates and updates from other village committees, commissions, and boards to assist in implementing ordinance 2-461 (a)(b)(c)

The following updates were provided:

- Thompson talked about work between the High School and Senior Outreach. They provided additional goody bags for Valentines Day meals, and it was well received.
- Thompson also talked about Students connecting with Seniors through games

and other programs.

- Thompson talked about the Black Student Union and Multicultural Club reading books to kindergartners in the Spring. The theme will be diversity.
- Thompson talked about how the Black Student Union and Student Council organized an assembly for Martin Luther King Jr. Day with former Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes speaking to the students.
- Thompson stated that it was Community Week at the High School and each club would be doing something different each day.

**5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.**

*a. Monday, March 16, 2026 at 6:00 pm.*

**6. ADJOURNMENT.**

Motion by Peña, second by Annen, to adjourn at 6:58 pm.

Pursuant to law, written notice of this meeting was given to the public and posted on the public bulletin board in accordance with Open Meetings Law.

Respectfully submitted,  
Matthew G. Schuenke  
Village Administrator