

VILLAGE OF MCFARLAND

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

*Monday, April 20, 2026 - 6:00 PM*

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

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

Members Present: Kathy Annen, Miguel Peña, Monica Bruce, Meghan Kelling-Shanks, Mona Nelson (arrived at 6:10 pm), and Kelly Thompson.

Members Not-Present: None.

Staff Present: Village Administrator Matt Schuenke and Communications Specialist Eleanor Kay.

**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 March 16, 2026 meeting.*

Motion by Annen, second by Peña, to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2026 meeting. Motion carries 6 - 0 - 0 by acclamation.

**4. BUSINESS.**

*a. Presentation regarding McFarland School District Equity Update.*

Superintendent Aaron Tarnutzer was present from the McFarland School District to provide an update on the school's equity initiatives. He

*b. Discussion regarding event planning for Juneteenth.*

Christine Pribbenow was present on behalf of the McFarland Equity Project (MEP) to talk about their work to assist the Black Student Union through the High School on the 2026 Juneteenth Celebration. This is a co-planned event between the groups where students help to provide the vision and programs with MEP assisting in various logistics around food, activities, and other needs. The event will be held on Saturday, June 20th from 12:00-3:00 pm at Arnold Larson Park. The Committee discussed ways the Village can help support the student run event with Communications presence, marketing assistance, volunteering, financial support, and a speaker to participate in the

program. MEP will follow-up with the Administrator with an update to be provided next month. No action taken on this item.

c. Discussion and Action on Planning Education and Awareness Campaigns for July-December 2026.

The Communications Specialist and Administrator reviewed the first six months of 2026 for recognitions that were approved previously in December. Everything has now been included beyond what DEI selected including recognitions within all Departments. The updated paradigm calendar was provided as background. The Committee reviewed and discussed the second half of 2026 provide direction on how to proceed. The group would finalize the list at its next meeting. No action was taken on this item.

d. Discussion regarding event planning of World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development.

Administrator Schuenke has been working with the Multi-Cultural Club at the High School to plan for this year's event. A draft outline was included in the packet where the Committee provided comments on. The preference is to lean information and work with students to finalize menu then proceed to complete remaining tasks. A final walk through will be held at the meeting next month. No action was taken on this item.

e. Discussion regarding event planning for Pride Flag Raising.

Administrator Schuenke reviewed an event outline for the Pride Flag Raising. This is scheduled for June 3rd at 5:30 pm in the front of the Municipal Center. The event program will be the same as in previous years with speeches/recognitions, flag raising, and light refreshments. The flag then will remain for the rest of June. The Committee reviewed the outline and was fine proceeding within a similar format. We will further check in on this at the next meeting in May. No action on this item.

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

Following up on a number of different engagements with the High School, the Equity Picnic hosted by the Equity Coalition will be on Wednesday, April 22nd from 8:30 to 11:30 am. The Students have invited the Committee to participate and we discussed what the program will look like with our involvement. No action was taken on this item.

g. 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)

No additional updates provided at this time.

**5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.**

a. Monday, May 18, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

**6. ADJOURNMENT.**

Motion by Peña, second by Annen, and unanimously carried by the DEI Committee to adjourn at 8:01 pm. Motion carried 6 - 0 - 0 by acclimation.

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