

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Minutes

Wednesday, May 19, 2021 - 6:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL.

Stephanie Brassington called the regular meeting of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee to order at 6:10 pm within the Community Room at the McFarland Municipal Center.

Members present: Hilary Brandt, Stephanie Brassington, Monica Bruce, Sean Chislom, Laetitia Hollard, Patrick Miles (Chairperson), and Mona Nelson (arrived at 6:18 pm).

Members not present: Bridget Bell, Dave Pagenkopf

Others Present: Village President Carolyn Clow, Rainey Briggs, and Percy Brown.

Staff Present: Administrator Matt Schuenke, Communications and Technology Director Stephanie Miller, Police Chief Aaron Chapin, and Police Lieutenant Jeremy Job.

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

- a. This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Village Board. Please remember this is a virtual meeting conducted through the Zoom online meeting platform. Zoom meeting attendees wishing to address the board may do so using the Question and Answer feature within the Zoom online meeting platform. You may state your name, address, and provide your comments to the board for their consideration. Members of the public who are present in person and wish to address the board should fill out a public comment form and turn into the meeting chairperson. Members of the public may speak during public appearances or during their selected agenda item as they designate on the public comment form. Please adhere to the 3-minute time limit. Additionally, you may send your public comments to cassandra.suettinger@mcfarland.wi.us to be included as part of the meeting.

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

- a. Discussion and action regarding minutes of the meeting held on April 21, 2021.

A motion was made by Brassington, seconded by Chislom, and unanimously carried by the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee to approve the minutes from the meeting held on April 12, 2021.

4. BUSINESS.

- a. Introduction of the new Village President.

New Village President Carolyn Clow was present to introduce herself to the Subcommittee having been elected to the Village Board in this capacity this last April. She talked about her background and interests on the board as well as viewpoints on aspects of diversity, equity, and inclusion. No action was taken on this item.

b. Presentation and discussion with consultants for diversity, equity, and inclusion planning.

Rainey Briggs of Meraki Consulting and Percy Brown of Critical Consciousness were present to talk about their role as a consultant and the work they do surrounding diversity, equity, and inclusion. The Subcommittee asked questions as to how their work that they have done in other Communities including schools would relate to McFarland. The Subcommittee was interested in learning further about their work, and directed Staff to meet with them to bring forth a proposal to consider at the next meeting. No action was taken on this item.

c. Introduction of the new Police Chief and Lieutenant.

Newly hired Police Chief Aaron Chapin and newly appointed Police Lieutenant Jeremy Job were present to introduce themselves to the Subcommittee. Each individual provided their background and discussed that they are excited to work with the Subcommittee in the future. No action was taken on this item.

d. Discussion regarding opportunities for collaboration between the McFarland School District and McFarland Equity Project.

It was discussed that the Village and School District have been communicating about holding regular meetings between our organizations to discuss important matters in the Community. One of those matters is diversity, equity, and inclusion and how we can partner to improve upon these aspects. The Village Board and School Board are planning a joint meeting on Monday, June 28th at 5:30 pm. Patrick will be providing his update to the board that we talked about at the last meeting and the School District will be presenting initiatives they have been working on. After that, the two boards are planning more meetings to stay in more regular contact to work together on these issues. No action needed on this item.

e. Discussion regarding the development of goals and objectives of the Subcommittee.

The Subcommittee revisited its goals and objectives that had begun to be prepared at a previous meeting. There were two aspects regarding the preparation of goals and objectives: 1) deciding on a format; and 2) how might a consultant assist us. Discussion centered around the previous agenda item and the Consultant presentations to align those efforts. As directed, Staff will engage the consultants to prepare a proposal that is potentially aligned with the outlined needs in this discussion. It will be presented at our next meeting. No action was taken on this item.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.

a. Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

b. Requests for future agenda items.

Two items were discussed by the group:

- Follow up by Staff after meeting with Consultant.
- Creation of a standing dialogue with the Police Department.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

A motion was made by Brassington, seconded by Chislom, and unanimously carried by the

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Matthew G. Schuenke
Village Administrator