

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Minutes

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 - 6:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL.

Chairperson Miles called the regular meeting of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee to order at 6:01 pm in the Community Room of the McFarland Municipal Center.

Members present: Hilary Brandt, Stephanie Brassington, Monica Bruce, Sean Chislom (left at 6:24 pm), Laetitia Hollard (left at 7:40 pm), Patrick Miles (Chairperson), Mona Nelson, and Dave Pagenkopf.

Members not present: Bridget Bell.

Staff Present: Administrator Matt Schuenke, and Communications and Technology Director Stephanie Miller.

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.

1. Carrie Nelson residing at 5211 N. Autumn Lane commented that she had enjoyed working with the Subcommittee previously under her resident appointment but has been appointed to different Committees as a Trustee. She looks forward to supporting this group from the Village Board level and working within her new assignments.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

- a. Discussion and action regarding minutes of the meeting held on March 17, 2021.
A motion was made by Brassington, seconded by Brandt, and unanimously carried by the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee to approve the minutes for the meeting held on March 17, 2021.

4. BUSINESS.

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

Two different consultants were present to provide background on the work that they do. August Ball is Founder/CEO at Cream City Conservation and Consulting. Harry Hawkins is Executive Vice President at the Nehemiah Center for Urban Leadership

Development. Both talked extensively about their work within communities to advance and plan around diversity, equity, and inclusion. The Subcommittee discussed with both their work and how it might reflect upon McFarland. Further discussion involved continuing to review and evaluate consulting opportunities in line with the design to prepare our goals and objectives. Hawkins commented on the importance of simply starting the work by getting some basic points together to build from in the short term while in the long term it may lead to a larger project/assessment. No action was taken on this item.

b. Update regarding membership into the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE).

Communications and Technology Director Miller commented that she filled our application with the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE). She received a message that applications are delayed in being reviewed and accepted. She will monitor to see when its accepted and we can access their resources. There may be some materials or formats to follow from that entity to aide in our work as well as maybe offset a Consultant in some ways. No action was taken on this item.

c. Discussion regarding research on diversity, equity, and inclusion resources, consultants, and other comparable planning efforts.

The resource document was presented again for feedback. A few new suggestions will be added and the document will be placed on the Subcommittee's page within the website. No action was taken on this item.

d. Discussion on progress report to the Village Board.

Chairperson Miles and Administrator Schuenke will connect with the Village President to make report to the Village Board in the near future. Once a date has been scheduled we will share with the group so that all who wish to attend may come to the meeting. No action was taken on this item.

e. Update and discussion regarding recruitment for the Police Chief position.

Administrator Schuenke stated that Aaron Chapin has been hired as the next Police Chief for the Village of McFarland. He will begin his work on May 17th. We are working to line up his introduction at the next meeting. No action was taken on this item.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.

a. Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

b. Requests for future agenda items.

- Introduction of the new Police Chief and Lieutenant.
- Possible collaboration between McFarland Equity Project and the Subcommittee.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

A motion was made by Brassington, seconded by Nelson, and unanimously carried by the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 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