

VILLAGE OF MCFARLAND

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Minutes

Monday, December 19, 2022 - 6:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL.

Trustee Brassington called the regular meeting of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee to order at 6 p.m. in the Community Room.

Members present: Stephanie Brassington, Edward Wreh, Monica Bruce, Mona Nelson, Maya Thompson, Miguel Pena, Angela Bazan

Members not present: none.

Staff Present: Stephanie Miller

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

No public appearances.

- a. *This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. Please remember this is a virtual meeting conducted through the Zoom online meeting platform. Zoom meeting attendees wishing to address the Committee 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 Committee for their consideration. Members of the public who are present in person and wish to address the Committee 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 communications@mcfarland.wi.us to be included as part of the meeting.*

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

- a. *Motion to approve the minutes of the November 21st, 2022 meeting, held jointly with the Personnel Committee.*

Motion by Village Trustee Edward Wreh, seconded by Member Mona Nelson, to approve the minutes of the November 21st, 2022 meeting, held jointly with the Personnel Committee. Motion carries 7 - 0 - 0 by acclamation.

- b. *Motion to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2022 DEI Committee meeting.*

Motion by Village Trustee Edward Wreh, seconded by Member Angela Bazan, to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2022 DEI Committee meeting. Motion carries 7 - 0 - 0 by acclamation.

4. BUSINESS.

- a. *Discussion of "Event Development - Guest Speaker/Program Development" within the DEI S.M.A.R.T. goals.*

This agenda item was a brainstorm session and open-table. Various topics of the discussion included:

- Who are these events for? Open to the public.

- Consider partnering with another group or organization, such as the McFarland Equity Project (MEP), E.D. Locke Public Library, McFarland Senior Outreach, or the high school's Multi-cultural club.
 - E.D. Locke Public Library offers a lot of programming, guest speakers, materials, and education routinely
 - Showcase in front area of the library
 - Film screenings [with library]
- Offer during day-time (for students) and in evening
- Black History Month is in February. Can we find a guest speaker by then?
 - Reach out to previous consultants, Rainey Briggs and Percy Brown
- Who within our community could be guest speakers? "Know your neighbor"-connection
 - Authors of "Tale of Two Cities" live in McFarland (suggested by Member Angie Bazan)
- "On The Table" - Milwaukee event (suggested by Member Angie Bazan)
 - The committee could host a similar event; consider utilizing our parks and warmer months
- Other organizations to reach out to for this development:
 - Badger Rock Community Center (suggested by Member Monica Bruce)
 - Urban League of Greater Madison, Anesis Therapy, EQT by Design, UniverCity Alliance (suggested by Trustee Ed Wreh)
 - Dr. Alex Gee (suggested by Member Angie Bazan)
 - Masood Ahktar (suggested by Member Maya Thompson)
 - Art and Dawn Shegonee
- Overall goal: bring the community together with culture
- Consider topics around LGBTQIA, Latinx, Indigenous [McFarland history], women, mental health
- Partner with local businesses and organizations
- "Human Library" concept; NPR's Story Corps
- Strive to host guest speakers on a quarterly basis
 - Use monthly recognitions or holidays to help aid in a topic of discussion (February: Black History Month, March: Women's History Month, Juneteenth, etc.)

b. Discussion of "Event Development - Land Acknowledgement" within the DEI S.M.A.R.T. Goals.

Stephanie Miller provided a brief update on next steps for the land acknowledgement and her active role as the staff liaison with the McFarland working group. Not a lot was available for an update, but the committee continued to discuss how they would like to proceed with their involvement. Questions and thoughts that the committee discussed included:

- How does a land acknowledgment happen?
- How often does it happen?
- Are there multiple locations where you place it?
- Are there plans for a plaque to go on the new Public Safety Center?
- We want to better understand why it is happening so we can provide that

education to others.

- What is the indigenous history of McFarland prior to the railroad?
- Guest speaker(s) and ceremony to be hosted at the McFarland Community Festival
 - DEI Committee wants to help create awareness of the event and provide resources ahead of time.
 - How can we get the school involved? Brian Ward's curriculum at middle school.

Stephanie Miller said she would provide more information when available with hopes of doing so at the next meeting.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.

a. January 30, 2023 at 6 p.m. at the McFarland Municipal Center.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion by Village Trustee Edward Wreh, seconded by Village Trustee Stephanie Brassington, to adjourn at 7:13 p.m.

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,
Stephanie R. Miller
Director of Communications and Technology