

VILLAGE OF MCFARLAND

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Minutes

Monday, January 30, 2023 - 6:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL.

Trustee Stephanie 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, Angela Bazan, Monica Bruce, Mona Nelson, Maya Thompson, Miguel Pena.

President Carolyn Clow was also in attendance, ex-officio status. Clow departed the meeting after item 4a was finished.

Members not present: none

Staff present: Stephanie Miller

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

- a. *This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee for items that are not on the agenda. Please remember this is a hybrid meeting conducted in person and through the Zoom online meeting platform. Meeting attendees wishing to address the Committee about items not on the agenda may do so at this time. Zoom attendees should type their name and address in the Question and Answer feature within the Zoom online meeting platform at this time. 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. When you are called upon to speak, state your name, address, and provide your comments to the Committee for their consideration. 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.*

Members of the public may also speak during their selected agenda item as they designate on the public comment form or in the Question and Answer feature on Zoom.

Monica Bruce of 5020 Farwell Street, made public comment on policing and the death of Tyre Nichols. Bruce's submitted form is enclosed.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

- a. *Motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 19, 2022.*
Motion by Village Trustee Stephanie Brassington, seconded by Village Trustee Edward Wreh, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 19, 2022. Motion carries 7 - 0 - 0 by acclamation.

4. BUSINESS.

- a. *Discussion and possible action to recommend the written land acknowledgment to the McFarland Village Board.*
Samantha Zeilenga, of the Indigenous Solidarity Collective of McFarland, in conjunction with staff member, Stephanie Miller, presented the attached written land

acknowledgment to the committee. Various questions from the committee included:

- When/where will this used/displayed/etc.? (Member Angie Bazan)
- Do we read this before every Gov't meeting?
- What other work can we do after this approval?
- Why are we only recognizing Ho-Chunk and not the other nations in Wisconsin?

The committee also reviewed the attached examples of other organizations' land acknowledgements.

A public comment in support of this item was made by McFarland resident, Dawn Shegonee. No address was stated.

A motion by Trustee Stephanie Brassington, seconded by Trustee Edward Wreh, to recommend the written land acknowledgment to the McFarland Village Board with additional language as discussed. Wreh rescinded his second, leaving no second motion on the table. Motion failed due to lack of second.

As discussion came to a close, the committee requested that the Indigenous Solidarity Collective of McFarland add a sentence that somehow include the 11 other nations within the written acknowledgement. After including that, the committee would like to review the addition before sending it to the McFarland Village Board.

Motion by Member Angela Bazan, seconded by Member Mona Nelson, to recommend that the land acknowledgment goes back to the Indigenous Solidarity Collective of McFarland to add a sentence that acknowledges the additional indigenous nations of Wisconsin and then bring back to the next DEI Committee meeting. Motion carries 7 - 0 - 0 by acclamation.

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

Stephanie Miller provided a brief update about work on the guest speaker/program development. Miller stated that she was beginning to connect with E.D. Locke Public Library staff and working with them in the future on guest speaker events. Additionally, Miller mentioned an invite received from McFarland School District Superintendent, Aaron Tarnutzer, to co-sponsor an event on March 1st. This event would be the first co-sponsored event the DEI Committee would be a part of. The guest speaker who they were invited to help coordinate the event is Tasha Schuh, an inspirational speaker who equips youth and educators to be resilient for their mental and emotional health.

The committee showed much enthusiasm to co-sponsoring the event. They discussed that it would be a good idea to co-sponsor their first event for starters and gain better understanding to having their own in the future. Members asked for further detail regarding what the co-sponsorship means, how the committee can be involved, and how much money would it cost. Miller indicated that nothing could move forward until hearing approval back from Village Administrator, Matt Schuenke. Trustee Edward Wreh requested a special meeting to discuss this topic prior to the February 20, 2023 meeting.

Additional discussion included continuing to work in partnership with the district for events, as it is impactful for both students and members of the community.

Trustee Stephanie Brassington requested that this agenda item be a reoccurring item for future agendas so the discussion can continue.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.

a. Monday, February 20, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the McFarland Municipal Center.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion by Village Trustee Edward Wreh, seconded by Member Mona Nelson, to adjourn at 7:12 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 Miller
Director of Communications and Technology