

VILLAGE OF MCFARLAND

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Minutes

Monday, February 20, 2023 - 5:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL.

Trustee Stephanie Brassington called the regular meeting of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the McFarland Municipal Center.

Members present: Stephanie Brassington, Edward Wreh, Angela Bazan, Monica Bruce, Mona Nelson, Maya Thompson, Miguel Peña, and President Carolyn Clow in ex-officio capacity.

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.

No public appearances.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

- a. *Motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 30, 2023.*

Motion by Village Trustee Stephanie Brassington, seconded by Village Trustee Edward Wreh, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 30, 2023. 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.*

Motion by Member Angela Bazan, seconded by Member Mona Nelson, to recommend the written land acknowledgment to the McFarland Village Board. Motion carries 7 - 0 - 0 by acclamation.

As a part of the DEI Committee's S.M.A.R.T. Goals, a land acknowledgment is one step in accomplishing many within the village. Thanks to the assistance of the Indigenous Working Group of McFarland (members: Samantha Zeilenga, Tamie Klumpy, Brian Ward, and Aaron Tarnutzer), they were able to draft a written acknowledgment and receive feedback from Ryan Greendeer, of the Ho-Chunk Nation. This group presented the written acknowledgment to Laison, Stephanie Miller, at their January group meeting, asking for approval of the Village.

The DEI Committee reviewed the written land acknowledgment on January 30, 2023, but requested added language to include all eleven nations of Wisconsin. This language was then added and brought back to the committee for approval on February 20, 2023. Samantha Zeilenga briefly presented the updated language, plus the addition of the word, "sacred," within the land acknowledgment to the committee.

The enclosed items are examples of various land acknowledgments within nearby organizations, as well as the written acknowledgments in their various drafts. The final draft on page 4 of the enclosed was approved by the DEI Committee. They recommend acceptance of this to the Village Board in conjunction with the School Board, as a joint effort of the two largest decision makers of the McFarland community.

After this written land acknowledgment is accepted by the Village Board, further initiatives of where it will be located, where and when it will be read, and an event to celebrate this, are to follow.

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

Stephanie Miller gave a brief introduction about the co-sponsored event for Wednesday, March 1, 2023.

Kelly Thompson, from McFarland High School, provided an overview and background to the committee. SPEAR students wanted to find a guest speaker to talk about mental health. While exploring speakers, they received two grants. They also discussed wanting to collaborate with Village so the community and parents could also attend or be involved. Thompson mentioned that Tasha Schuh is from Wisconsin (local tie/connection) and speaks on resilience, which is an important skill for students to understand. She also expressed excitement of collaborating with the DEI Committee so the community can hear Tasha's story and message as well.

After Thompson left, Miller continued to provide information on how the committee can assist at the event, such as being by the doors to show attendees where to find the multipurpose room, providing any accommodations, and having an informational table in the space. The committee discussed other options on what else can be done at the event, such as, a suggestion box (i.e., allow folks to provide suggestions for what kind of speakers or events they want to see the DEI committee to hold), informational materials on who the committee is and what it does at both events.

Discussion also led to finding a new student to replace current committee member, Maya Thompson, as she will be graduating this year. This new member will be

appointed at the end of April and start their time with the committee at the May meeting. Members agreed it would be best to transition the new student member onto the committee so they know what to expect and what initiatives have been talked about.

Miller brought the discussion back to the event, mentioning the final marketing reminder for digital platforms, but also the few ways in which they're getting information to the senior population via Senior Outreach. The committee also mentioned providing flyers at various locations around town, such as the American Legion, churches, Lions Club, McFarland House Cafe, primary election, community festival committee members, and chamber members.

Thompson volunteered to be the representative of the DEI Committee to introduce Schuh at the community event. All committee members were in agreement.

Chair Stephanie Brassington asked if there was any further discussion that the committee would like to contribute to the general topic of the item. Member Miguel Peña offered to send information about a work training session that he recently went through. President Clow mentioned that there funding is available and that the committee should continue to work with the school district on events. Brassington asked how much the Village was spending on the March 1st event; \$500 was allocated.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.

a. Monday, March 20, 2023 at 6 p.m. in the McFarland Municipal Center.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion by Member Angela Bazan, seconded by Village Trustee Edward Wreh, to adjourn at 6:04 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