

CITY OF WARRENVILLE
INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND AWARENESS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, January 18, 2022
7:00 pm via Electronic Means

MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chair Dudak. Chair Dudak proceeded to read a statement regarding state law and the Open Meetings Act and the mandates that would be followed for this electronic meeting.

B. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Chair Betsy Dudak, Commissioners Amy Krischel, Sara Phalen, Carrie Leonard, and Christina Avila

ALSO PRESENT: Staff Liaison Cristina White, Council Liaison Bill Weidner, Ex-Officio members Joe Levy (Warrenville Fire Protection District) and Diana Abraham (Warrenville Public Library District); Presenters Nafia Kahn (HOPE Fair Housing) and Kay McKeen (SCARCE)

ABSENT: Commissioners Mike Jarmus and Jimmi Rai, Ex-Officio members Limaris Pueyo (CUSD 200 Representative) and Guadalupe Esquivel (student representative)

C. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

None.

D. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 21, 2021 MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Phalen to approve the December 21, 2021 minutes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Leonard. Chair Dudak abstained from voting due to her absence at the December meeting. The motion was approved by the other commissioners.

E. STAFF REPORT

Staff Liaison White shared that she received an email from someone interested in connecting with the commission. She will forward the email to the commissioners for review following the meeting. In addition, Staff Liaison White shared that the Martin Luther King, Jr. information was posted in the Hometown Happenings newsletter and the City staff were gathering a collection for the food pantry and encouraging volunteerism in honor of the day.

F. BUSINESS OF MEETING

1. PRESENTATION BY HOPE FAIR HOUSING

Nafia Kahn presented on the goals of HOPE fair housing. HOPE Fair Housing is located in Downtown Wheaton and serves most of Northern and Central Illinois. They work to create

greater housing opportunities for all people.

2. PRESENTATION BY SCARCE

Kay McKeen, founder of SCARCE, presented on the resources that the organization rescues to help teachers and not-for-profits get the supplies they need. She shared a new program beginning in Warrenville called “Literacy at the Laundromat”. This is a program that was started four years ago in three laundromats in Addison. SCARCE provides bookshelves and new books for the patrons of the laundromat to read to the children while at the laundromat and they are also available for families to take home.

3. COMMISSION TRAINING-IMPLICIT BIAS AWARENESS

Commissioner Leonard presented on implicit bias and led a discussion on the importance of asking questions about how we can make events more appealing to other groups. The commissioners and attendees engaged in implicit bias tests prior to the meeting and shared the results and views on these results.

4. CONSIDERATION OF APRIL, MAY, JUNE EVENTS FOR RECOGNITION

Staff Liaison White shared the latest draft via email for review prior to the February meeting. Additional discussion will occur at the February meeting.

5. DISCUSSION REGARDING COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES FOR PUBLIC OUTREACH

Staff Liaison White will gather a list of homeowners associations that meet at City hall. Further discussion on this topic will be added to the next agenda when other commissioners are present.

6. CONSIDERATION OF A SCRIPT TO DEAL WITH DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS

Commissioner Phalen reviewed the conflict training she attended and will contact the presenters for more information on a group presentation that would be most applicable to the needs of the commission. Commissioner Avila will draft a sentence or two that will be shared at the February meeting to begin work toward a consistent message from commissioners as they engage the public.

7. CONSIDERATION OF COMMISSION OBJECTIVES

The commissioners reviewed the objectives as a monthly agenda item to stay on track and identify next steps. The commissioners discussed that aligning the targets for completion with the fiscal year would keep timing consistent with other City business. Commissioners identified some objectives that have been completed and others that could be moved to the next fiscal year. Staff Liaison White will amend the objectives with track changes to share at the February meeting.

8. CONSIDERATION OF A LIST OF TOPICS TO DISCUSS WITH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT STAFF

Staff Liaison White shared that Chief Turano would be happy to attend a commission meeting to dialogue with the group. The commissioners gathered a list of topics and questions of interest. These included: traffic stop data, what the PD is doing for diversifying staff, adding crisis teams, training on diversity, how the PD deals with mental illness, how the PD is promoting positive visibility in the community, and what changes have been made

since the George Floyd murder and riots.

G. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/REPORTS

Commissioner Krischel shared that the Wheaton Warrenville South High School Key Club sponsor contacted her about partnering on projects. The Key Club does not have any established events or day of service for MLK day but would be interested in partnering on service projects in the future.

Commissioner Avila writes a school newsletter that she would like to share with the commission. She will email to Staff Liaison White

Chair Dudak shared that she has made the difficult decision to step down from the commission. This will be her last meeting. The commissioners thanked her for her service.

H. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Commissioner Phalen to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Leonard and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Commissioner Krischel