



MINUTES
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
Friday, February 23, 2018 @ 11:30 a.m.
Council Conference Room, 10th Floor, City Hall

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:33 a.m.

Committee Members

Council Member Carol Wood, Chair
Council Member Brian T. Jackson, Vice Chair
Council Member Patricia Spitzley - excused

Others Present

LaSondra Crenshaw, Council Staff
Tammy Lemmer – TCOA
Tierra Riddick – MSU School of Journalism
Julee Rodocker – Consumers Energy
Dax Carpenter, Disability Network
Brandon Waddell – Attorney's Office
Stacey Locke – Peckham
Elaine Womboldt – Rejuvenating South Lansing
Jim Bale – GLLC
Marilyn Plummer – Mayor's Office

MINUTES

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WOOD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM February 9, 2018 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 2 - 0

Discussion:

Exploring what a Diversity & Inclusion Committee may look like

Council Member Wood reminded the Ad Hoc Committee that Mayor Schor discussed creating a Commission on Diversity. The options are a standing Committee established by City Council or the Mayor establishing a Commission. The Committee talked and decided to put together some questions to understand what Mayor Schor may be considering with his Commission. The Committee talked about resending letters to the different organizations that were invited three years ago. The hope is to create a new interest in the Committee. The Ad Hoc Committee was asked to determine some ideas on pros and cons for a Commission.

Ms. Locke asked the difference between an Ad Hoc Committee and a Commission. Council Member Wood advised that the Ad Hoc Committee is established by City Council and has a certain time set by a resolution and charge to accomplish certain task. A Commission could be set up for a specific purpose and reports to the Mayor. He or she would give them certain charges from time to time.

Ms. Wombolt stated that she likes how this group functions, it is informal but committed to making sure all the populations have their needs addressed. She would hate to lose the respect that has been earned and the willingness to help each other feel comfortable and welcoming. Each individual's opinion is important and has added to better understanding. She would hate to lose that in a Commission.

Council Member Wood stated that Ad Hoc Committee has allowed us to learn from each other, and we then advocate in different areas for each other that we may not have thought about. We need to make sure the Mayor would ask people to sit on Commission that are willing to go out of their comfort zone.

Ms. Locke stated If you limit the amount of people you limit the experience. Everyone brings something different to the table. Council Member Wood stated that over a period of time you realize there are other people who would benefit from this group. What we are hearing is the need to make sure that you are continuously reaching out and bringing people to the table that have diverse interest and can reach different groups of people.

Ms. Lemmer asked if the Commission idea is this just a thought, as she does not see the need for two such Committees. Council Member Wood explained some of the advantage of being under Mayor Schor is he is creating budgets, hiring practices, and policies that affect the city. And she would hope City Council would have some representation on a Commission.

Ms. Lemmer asked who was on the original mailing list. Council Member Wood stated she will get that information and provide it at the next meeting. It was about 100 letters that were sent out we tried to reach as many groups as possible, and all ages.

Mr. Bale state that often individuals only participate if agenda pertains to them.

Ms. Plummer asked whether the Clergy Forum had been invited and did they participate? Council Member Wood advised they were invited but did not come. She did indicate that she has made presentation before the group on different topics that Ad Hoc Committee was working on.

Ms. Lemmer suggested going on speaking tour to different organizations to bring awareness.

Ms. Locke asked would there be rules for the Commission. Ms. Plummer will take those questions and get some direction from the Mayor's office.

Council Member Wood stated that she likes that we try to keep this to an hour meeting, the Commission would have to look at that to see what time would capture the most people.

Discussion

Cesar Chavez March 29, 2018

Council Member Wood advised that a few years ago HRCS decided they weren't going to do the Cesar Chavez Memorial Celebration in the Council Chambers anymore so Ad Hoc on Diversity & Inclusion took it on. She has not heard from the Mayor's office that this event will be done by HRCS. So we want to make sure we get the planning done. The date of the event will be Thursday, March 29, 2018 12pm-1pm. We need to secure people for the following: Master Ceremony, Invocation, Speaker, and school choir.

Council Member Jackson will take on finding a school that has kids that can perform. Council Member Wood will reach out to either Pastor from Bread House South or Pastor Rosalinda Hernandez to do the Invocation. Council Member Wood will ask Tracy Ruiz if she would be willing to Guest Speaker for the event, and looking into the theme. We will see if Mr. Lopez or Mr. Salas will be master of ceremony. We have a \$500 budget for food and will also see about food donations. Need to be prepared to discuss the program at the next meeting.

Next meeting March 9th, 2018

Still working on Opioids issues

OTHER

Updates on Participants in the Committee

Group discussed parking issues in downtown, especially the limited availability for handicapped parking spots. Ms. Plummer took notes and will take this information back to the Mayor's office. Council Member Jackson will also speak with Downtown Inc regarding this matter.

Council Member Jackson 4th Ward meeting February 24, 2018 from 10am – 12pm at Gregory's

Representative from BW&L and Sparrow will be present. He also invited members to Know Your Rights Meeting Feb 24, 2018 1-3 p.m. Downton Library

Dax Carpenter announced the Neighborhood Engagement Team meeting March 19th, 2018 from 6-7 p.m. at Disability Network.

Tammy Lemmer spoke about the movie viewing "Raising America" March 24, 2018 from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center.

Cesar Chavez event March 29th at 12:00 p.m. – City Council Chambers 10th Floor. 12-1 p.m.

Amplifying Voices October 22, 2018 at Kellogg Center

Adjourn

Adjourn at 12:36 p.m.

Submitted by,

LaSondra Crenshaw, Administrative Assistant

Approved March 4, 2018