

**DRAFT**



**MINUTES**  
**AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**  
**Friday, March 9, 2018 @ 11:30 a.m.**  
**Council Conference Room, 10<sup>th</sup> 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 - excused  
Council Member Patricia Spitzley

**Others Present**

LaSondra Crenshaw, Council Staff  
Tammy Lemmer – TCOA  
Julee Rodocker – Consumers Energy  
Dax Carpenter, Disability Network  
Heather – Attorney's Office  
Stacey Locke – Peckham  
Jim Bale – GLLC  
Marilyn Plummer – Mayor's Office  
Al Salas – Small Business Owner  
Judi Harris – STVCC Refugee Services  
Francine Houston – PSAT Member  
Guillermo Lopez – LLEAD Greater Lansing  
Mark Brown – LCED/NAACP/ACLU

**MINUTES**

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPITZLEY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM February 23, 2018 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED **2 - 0**

**Discussion:**

**Exploring what a Diversity & Inclusion Committee may look like**

Mr. Lopez stated he could remember when the City of Lansing had a curriculum that was use by the Police Department but we no longer do. The Police Academy could add that to the list of things when they are recruiting. And he stated that we should have attorney's and police officers that can speak Spanish. We also have a number of African citizens that speak a variety of languages.

Council Member Wood stated the Mayor's office is look at creating a Commission on Diversity, there is a Council resolution for the Ad Hoc Committee until the end of the year however we don't want two competing entities. She also advised the group she will email the list of groups that we previously sent letters to asking to participate in the Ad Hoc on Diversity Committee. We are looking at send out letters again along with our accomplishments.

Council Member Wood advised they would like to encourage the Mayor to have the same type of atmosphere we have at our meetings. We want to make sure we have the inclusion and are able to bring up different topics to light as this Committee has been doing. We would want to make sure the topics are relevant topics that would help us all have a better understanding of each other.

Mr. Carpenter stated that they need to know what organizations can do to help and it must be maintained that is how you keep the inclusion. Including the Snow Sergeants program they currently have 107 properties to shovel and only 7 volunteers.

Council Member Spitzley stated if the Mayor develops a Commission we do not want duel Committees but we may be able to act as staff or a foundation to Mayor's Commission as they have questions as we have great resources here. She hopes that the Commission takes some of our recommendations as a basis to develop policies.

Ms. Locke stated that when she thinks of the diversity and this team; she feels we have a place where people can sit and talk about being Black and Latino. This is a safe place we can sit down and be comfortable. She would love to see this Committee continue.

Ms. Rodocker stated there is such a great need in the community and this Committee is constantly helping.

Mr. Lopez stated this group is different than what he thinks it would be like being under the Mayor.

Mr. Brown stated that he wants to give kudos for having the Committee. LaShawn Erby brought up that there is not enough diversity and inclusion of Action of Greater Lansing. However the influence of this Committee could impact other organizations and he is disheartened this group could be diminished. He would encourage keeping this Ad Hoc on Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

Council Member Wood stated we do not want to lose the vulnerability of being yourself. People are comfortable in this group and have discussed things they have never been talked about before. We will continue to work on this, please continue to think about this for our next meeting.

## **Discussion**

### **Cesar Chavez March 29, 2018**

Council Member Wood reviewed last year's program. The date of program will be March 29, 2018. She advised that she did research on different themes and came up with Believe Act Preserve or Building Inclusive Communities. She then asked the group if any of these themes sound like one we would like to use. The group decided to go with Building Inclusive Communities. She then discussed who will do what during the program. She then advised the group that an updated program will be provided prior to the event.

Council Member Wood stated she will follow up with Council Member Jackson to see if he talked with El Shabazz Academy regarding their participation at the event, and if not Mr. Lopez will get in touch with the Lansing School District.

Council Member Spitzley suggested we look for kids to sing the National Anthem in both English & Spanish. Mr. Lopez advised he will look into this.

Council Member Wood advised the group that we have \$500 in the Council budget for this event and we need to figure out who will help with donating/buying the food for the reception after the program.

Mr. Lopez stated that in the past they have contacted several businesses and we buy some food and the businesses normally donate some as well.

Mr. Salas advised he will reach out to Claude Hogan about presenting the scholarships as he has done for past programs.

Next meeting March 23rd, 2018

Still working on Opioids issues

## **OTHER**

### **Updates on Participants in the Committee**

Knights of Columbus Fish fry every Friday at Cristo Rey Church at 6:00 p.m.

March 14<sup>th</sup> – Students March

March 24<sup>th</sup> before the capitol rally – “March for our lives” – MLK fellowship breakfast at Union Missionary Baptist Church 9:00 a.m. -10:00 a.m.

8<sup>th</sup> Annual Cesar Chavez birthday celebration March 31, 2018 – UAW Local 652 426 Clare St Lansing 48917 6:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.

May 25<sup>th</sup> – May 27<sup>th</sup> Cristo Rey Fiesta will take place

**Adjourn**

Adjourn at 12:37 p.m.

Submitted by,

LaSondra Crenshaw, Administrative Assistant

Approved March 19, 2018