

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE
May 4, 2023

DIV20230504-1
UNAPPROVED

A regular meeting of the Diversity Committee of the City of Cedarburg, Wisconsin, was held on Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at Cedarburg City Hall, W63 N645 Washington Avenue, lower level, room 2. The meeting was also available to attend online utilizing the Zoom app.

The meeting was called to order by Pastor Norquist at 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call: Present - Hayden Knight, Amit Kaul, Pastor John Norquist,
Connie Kincaide, Joyce Caldwell (1st Alt, arrived 7:07 pm)

Excused - Kayla Stoflet

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE

Pastor Norquist stated that the agenda for this meeting was posted and distributed in compliance with the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law.

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS – None

PRESENTATION BY SAMANTHA BEAR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CEDARBURG MERCANTILE AND BLOSSOM IDD

Samantha Bear described the mission and work of Cedarburg Mercantile and Blossom IDD. Data was shared with the Diversity Committee regarding the number of individuals that identify as having a disability, this current number being around 800 individuals in the City of Cedarburg. Benefits of living in the City and County as well as barriers to living in the City and County were presented. Samantha shared her background as an educator and invited Community members and Committee members to reach out to her with questions about pilot programs, services provided and opportunities to rent out the mercantile, volunteer with Blossom IDD, or be involved in other ways. Members of the Committee asked questions related to whether Blossom IDD works with the School District, how the newly installed ramp to access the building came to fruition and how to support individuals with disabilities in our community, including but not limited to panel discussions similar to Cedarburg Community Conversations. Ms. Bear noted the importance of websites being developed with accessibility in mind, and an area the Committee can inquire regarding our City of Cedarburg website, apps etc.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Joyce Caldwell, seconded by Hayden Knight, to approve the April 6, 2023 minutes. Motion carried without a negative vote with Kayla Stoflet excused

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discuss Community Outreach Events; and Action Thereon

Cedarburg Community Conversations

The format for the May 15 Asian American and Pacific Islander Voices community conversation will remain similar to that of the October, January, and March conversations. A greeting is given, panelists share their personal stories, and attendees are invited to participate in small groups. Panelists include Douglas Yip, Esther Rusch and Brad Babcock.

An additional community conversation for LGBTQIA+ voices to be held on June 26 has been confirmed and is in the planning stages.

Discuss Youth Engagement Opportunities and Strategic Partnerships; and Action Thereon

Hayden Knight and Amit Kaul are continuing to work together prior to meeting with Cedarburg School District Superintendent Clark. The Committee asked if the teacher that works with students in the Multicultural Club would be interested in speaking during a Diversity Committee meeting about the goals of the Club. Hayden Knight and Amit Kaul will continue working together on resources over the summer.

Discuss Increased In-Person Visibility of Diversity Committee Within the City; and Action Thereon

The Committee is waiting to hear when the proposed committee logo will be going before the Common Council. Additional discussion was held on the merit of creating a pledge for businesses interested in displaying the logo as a window cling and turning any design approved by Common Council into a yard sign.

Committee members will research language used by other municipalities prior to the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Establish Next Meeting Date and Identify Future Agenda Items; and Action Thereon

The next Diversity Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, June 1, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS

A Cedarburg resident utilized the chat feature to share that a former CHS graduate, Alicia Hawley has established a scholarship fund for Cedarburg students, through the Cedarburg Community Scholarship Fund called the DEI Scholarship Fund.

REPORTS

Member Reports

Connie Kincaide stated that she had reached out to Mayor O’Keefe about the progress of the Land Acknowledgement Statement that the Committee had previously approved.

Connie Kincaide stated that the event ShopUs will be held at the Ozaukee County Fairgrounds on May 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Pastor Norquist stated that the event, Black Lives are Sacred will be held on May 20, at 11:00 a.m. in front of Advent Lutheran Church.

Pastor Norquist stated that author and professor of African American Studies at Princeton University, Ruha Benjamin will be speaking at a free event held on June 17, 2023, 10:00 a.m. at Community Methodist Church in Cedarburg.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Joyce Caldwell, seconded by Hayden Knight, to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m. Motion carried without a negative vote with Kayla Stoflet excused.

Connie Kincaide
Secretary

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