

**DIVERSITY COMMITTEE  
February 4, 2021**

**DIV20210204-1  
UNAPPROVED**

A regular meeting of the Diversity Committee of the City of Cedarburg, Wisconsin, was held on Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via zoom.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Erica Turner at 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call:      Present -              Council Member Sherry Bublitz, Rev. John Norquist, Erica Turner,  
Dr. Joyce Caldwell, Kayla Stoflet, Blaine Gibson

Excused -              Amit Kaul, Hayden Knight

Also Present -              City Administrator Mikko Hilvo

**STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE**

City Administrator Hilvo acknowledged that the agenda for this meeting was posted and distributed in compliance with the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Dr. Joyce Caldwell, seconded by Council Member Bublitz, to approve the January 7, 2021 minutes. Motion carried without a negative vote with Amit Kaul and Hayden Knight excused.

**COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS**

Jessie M., 2339 West Custer Avenue, Milwaukee, spoke about racism in Cedarburg and how it has affected her family. She had to move out of the community because of the issues her family faced dealing with racism in the community. She would like to see more affordable housing in our community. The current proposed housing is not affordable. She is concerned about the wealth gap in our community which drives away good families. She would also like to see more diversity and change in our community. Not just discussion but action. The change should focus on changing systemic racism that is occurring in our community.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Discuss Diversity Committee Website; and Action Thereon**

City Administrator Hilvo reviewed the current website and asked if anyone had ideas on what information should be provided on the site. Blaine Gibson recommended putting a link to the Ozaukee County NAACP. City Administrator Hilvo stated that he would add it to the website. No other comments were offered.

**Discuss Future City Survey Questions on Diversity; and Action Thereon**

City Administrator Hilvo displayed the citizen survey and reviewed the questions. Discussion ensued

on the questions in the survey. Changes will be made based on the recommendation of the Committee and brought to the next meeting for additional discussion.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Review Purpose and Role of the Diversity Committee; and Action Thereon**

City Administrator Hilvo stated that the purpose of the Committee is to be an advisory committee to the City of Cedarburg Common Council on diversity related topics affecting the City. Discussion ensued on the Committee's ability to discuss Cedarburg community related diversity issues which would include School District, Town of Cedarburg, or Ozaukee County related issues. It was determined that this Committee can have those discussions but would not be able to take any action if it did not involve an item the City Common Council would be responsible for. To better facilitate change the goal should be to narrow down the Committee's focus to a few topics at a time and create actionable items that the Committee can bring in front of the Common Council. In the next meeting the Committee should discuss their goals are for the next couple months, six months, and this year.

### **Discuss Affordable and/or Workforce Housing; and Action Thereon**

To be discussed at March meeting.

### **Discuss Community Outreach Events; and Action Thereon**

To be discussed at March meeting.

### **Update on Martin Luther King Jr. Day; and Action Thereon**

To be discussed at March meeting.

### **Discuss Racism as a Public Health Crisis; and Action Thereon**

To be discussed at March meeting.

### **Identify Future Agenda Items; and Action Thereon**

The following items were suggested to be placed on a future agenda.

- 1) Discuss potential subcommittees.
  - a. Peace in the park event
  - b. Affordable/Workforce Housing
- 2) Discussion on Affordable/Workforce Housing.
- 3) Discussion on truth and reconciliation conversations.
- 4) Discussion of Racism as a Public Health Crisis.
- 5) Update on Peace in the Park event.

## **REPORTS**

### **Member Reports**

Erica Turner stated she would be disappointed if the committee was only formed to discuss the "nice things" but not discuss items that might be a bit more uncomfortable to discuss. The Committee should engage our community in these discussions to facilitate change.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Council Member Bubnitz, seconded by Blaine Gibson, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Motion carried without a negative vote with Amit Kaul and Hayden Knight excused.

adk

Mikko Hilvo  
City Administrator