

MINUTES  
CITY OF MARSHALL  
DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION COMMISSION  
Thursday, October 5 at 3:00PM  
City Hall, 344 W. Main Street Camden Conference Room and Zoom

AT LARGE MEMBERS PRESENT: George Taylor, Michele Knife Sterner, Joyce Tofte

STANDING MEMBERS PRESENT: Beth Ritter, Nicole DeBoer,

STAFF: Addy Wolbaum, DEI Assistant, Jasmine DeSmet, Community Education Coordinator, Sharon Hanson, City Administrator

Meeting began at 3:06pm

George Taylor welcomed the commission.

Michele Sterner asked for approval of the minutes: G Taylor motioned, Michele Sterner seconds. Motion carries.

Michelle asked for approval of the agenda: G Taylor motioned, Joyce Thoft seconds. Motion carries.

Jasmine DeSmet introduced herself - excited to take on this new role at the City and working with the DEI Comm.

Michelle also welcomed Dr Erin Kline, the new standing member representing SMSU. Dr. Erin Kline was not able to attend this meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Welcoming Week recap by Addy: under 500 people attended based on free eggrolls. Positive feedback. Than Than Kyaw from SWIF attended. Good turnout from booths/vendors. Beth Ritter from school system talked about demographics of attendees -- and noted that food choices bring different community members. Addy wonders how we can get high school/college age to attend? Beth loves idea to section off the bike path and have a chalk art contest. Nicole DeBoer knows of professional chalk artists. Consensus was that the event was appreciated by attendees. Michele mentioned that is timing of the event is at the same time as class and practice time. DJ/music did a good job.

Youth Commission update: Michele shared that the city attorney was going to give goals to her about the youth commission. We need to pick up this task and get it done. Want to continue to

move forward. Addy added the youth commission wouldn't be just DEI -- but a youth representative of multiple divisions of the City.

JUNETEENTH planning resulted in a few reflections: we have a strong foundation but want to make it better; need an Emcee; although we had a smaller crowd this year, they were engaged; The More Network will be sharing their reflections. We applied for a Marshall Community Foundation/SWIF grant but have not yet received word about this grant yet. Want to review other cities who have Juneteenth celebrations. Joyce asked for clarification about what questions the commission had for The More Network. George understands that we want to talk about roles for this event going forward -- and how to expand our outreach. Addy clarified that going forward the City of Marshall will take a larger planning/leadership role -- at the request of The More Network and SMSU (previous leading partners). Juneteenth 2024 is on a Wednesday. George recommends that for the first planning meeting it should be a small manageable group that includes commission sub-committee members, the City and The More Network. (Sharon Hanson arrived) Sharon defined this meeting as how do we want to sponsor this event as a City; The More Network can give us more input at this planning meeting -- really just deciding "what do we want to do" and getting feedback on that. Would be good to meeting before the new year. Michele mentioned that it would be nice to have it in the Community Services brochure -- like a save the date.

COMMISSION MEMBER UPDATES/OPENINGS: Ashley has stepped down from the standing member position. We have 4 positions open - but 3 needing recruitment. Michele has talked to people about joining and gets feedback that they are nervous about the process. Michele asked the attending commission members to assist in searching for people. G Taylor would like the commission to be more proactive and go after people who will serve this board well. Maybe brainstorm potential members.

RETREAT planning continues. The dates are still under review. There is consideration to allow for time to network with fellow commission members. In addition, Sharon would like us to formalize goals and have a strategic planning session. Sharon is reaching out to a couple facilitators for this strategic planning. Nicole will send a couple additional names.

(INTROS around the room)

Mua Pehn / Exposed Brick Theatre will be presenting portions of a Karen play in Marshall at SMSU (4 scenes) on 7pm October 30. In addition we were approached by an organization called Asian Media who was approached by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of MN to do a vaccination clinic: they are offering free vaccinations (Covid and Flu shot) plus \$50 gift card specifically for people of color. Clinic will be from 5-8pm on Oct 30. Will have an opportunity

for a second clinic on November 28 alongside another event. Michele will send out marketing materials to everyone on the DEI Commission so that they can send/include in their networks.

Meeting adjourned 3:50pm