

MINUTES

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION COMMISSION

Wednesday, January 5, 2022 – 3:00 PM

City Hall, 344 West Main Street

On Main and Zoom

AT LARGE MEMBERS PRESENT: Sara Runchey (Excused at 3:28 PM), Joyce Tofte, Michele Knife Sterner, George Taylor, Marcy Heemeyer.

STANDING POSITION MEMBERS PRESENT: Ted Stamp, Nicole DeBoer, Tim Mok (Avera), See Moua-Leske , Ross Wastvedt , Kumara Jayasuriya , Lauren Mellenthin (Prairie Home Hospice), Denae Winter.

Absent: Jay Lee, John DeCramer, Monica Talamantes, Don Robertson, Samira Sheikh Beth Ritter, Beth Wilms.

STAFF PRESENT: Amanda Becker, Community Education Coordinator; Kyle Box, City Clerk; Addy Wolbaum, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Assistant.

At 3:00 PM, Co-Chair Tofte asked for approval of the minutes from December 1, 2021. Member Sterner moved approval.

Co-Chair Tofte asked for nominations for Co-Chair nominations.

Member Runchey requested that the nominations be placed on the next meeting agenda in order to include the

Co-Chair Tofte asked for a review of the Standing Positions. Tofte mentioned MAHA and other area sports clubs in the area. Heemeyer suggested United Way of Southwest Minnesota.

Additional membership included, Ezira Tafa as the new SMSU Student Body President and will be contacted to join the Commission.

Co-Chair Tofte asked for discussion the Public Relations/ Resource Subcommittee. Addy Wolbaum, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Assistant provided on the website. The page is live and being updated with additional resources. A meeting with the Subcommittee will be scheduled in the next month.

Co-Chair Tofte provided discussion from the World Café Subcommittee. Tofte provided a review of the two proposals received by YWCA and Mighty Consulting. Member Mok discussed having the resources from the YWCA may be more beneficial.

There was further discussion by the Commission on both proposals. Member Tofte asked for the At-Large members vote.

Member Heemeyer voted favor of the YWCA

Member Taylor voted in favor on Mighty Consulting

Member Knife Sterner voted in favor of the YWCA

Co-Chair Tofte voted in favor of Mighty Consulting.

Without a majority vote from the at large members the motions do not pass. A special meeting will be called in the immediate future to vote on the consulting firm.

Co-Chair Tofte asked for any other discussion from the Commission.

Member Wastvedt commented on future the candidates for CDO position at SMSU. Member Wastvedt would like the Commission to participate and meet with the candidates. Thursday, January 27, and Wednesday February 2 at SMSU.

Amanda Beckler, Community Educations Coordinator provided an update on Cultures on the Prairie event that will take place on February 15 at SMSU.

Member DeBoer suggested having additional DEI Commission resources at the event, such as offering suggestions for the Commission to review.

An invitation will be sent out to SWIF to attend a future meeting to discuss 2022 Welcome Week.

Co-Chair Tofte reminded members to complete commission bios for the city website.

Hearing no further business, at 3:40 P.M., the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
City Clerk  
Kyle Box