

**MINUTES**  
**CITY OF MARSHALL**  
**DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION COMMISSION**  
**Wednesday, January 4, 2024 at 3:00PM**  
**Camden Conference Room and Zoom**  
**City Hall, 344 W. Main Street**

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

**STANDING MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dr. Erin Kline, Carol Biren, Nicole DeBoer, Beth Ritter

**STAFF:** Jasmine DeSmet, Community Education Coordinator, Sharon Hanson, City Administrator, See Moua-Leske, City Council

The meeting began at 3:01 pm

Approval of Agenda: George made a motion to approve the agenda with a second by Jay.

Approval of Minutes:

October – George made a motion to approve the October minutes, second by Jay.

November – George made a motion to approve the November minutes, second by Jay.

December – Correction – add George’s last name to the December minutes listing voting members. With that addendum, George made a motion to approve the December minutes with correction, second by Jay.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Juneteenth: Sharon reported on behalf of the Juneteenth committee that they have secured the entertainment of the same dance group from last year. The group has discussed some location options and will finalize that when all the activities are set. George asked if there is a social media campaign for the event.

World Fest: Dr. Kline updated the group on who will attend the upcoming planning meeting for World Fest 2024. Sharon clarified that it might not be feasible to hold the same type of event as last year as time and resources are limited.

**NEW BUSINESS**

IBWU Funding Request: Sharon proposed that the DEI Commission contribute \$1500 in funds to the It Begins With Us conference. A motion was made by Jay to approve the funding request with a second by Joyce.

Co-Chair Nominations: See nominated Joyce to serve as the Co-Chair. Some discussion was made around the number of terms one can hold that position. After referring to the by-laws, there was a determination that there is nothing specific to timing/number of terms for the co-chair position.

### **EVENTS**

IBWU: See provided an update on this event to be held at SMSU on Feb 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. This year's event is larger and has more speakers, so the IBWU committee is seeking funds to help with the cost of the event. This event will touch on current issues in DEI, Native American boarding schools and also will have a theater group from Minneapolis called Breaking the Ice. There will also be a Poverty Simulation on Day 1 of the event. See shared that it would be helpful if everyone could share the event on their individual platforms. The City will create an event on Facebook and share the event. Jasmine will follow up with Alex to schedule the city Facebook posts.

MLK: Jay provided an update to the group on this event to be held at SMSU on Jan 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be a speaker and a hot breakfast provided for the event. Information on the event and to regions is shared on the SMSU website.

### **OTHER**

Jay will share the flyer for the MLK event to the group.

Joyce asked about a budget spreadsheet that was discussed for the commission and if anyone knew the status of that document.

Joyce inquired about the status of the strategic planning work for the DEI Commission. Sharon will look into some options that were provided by the group. Joyce: ASDIC George: Marcellus Consulting and Alex Hines.

A thank you was given to Michelle for her work as Co-Chair of the committee. Michelle expressed that she has enjoyed her time and is proud of the steps the commission has made forward and reminds us to be diligent on continuing our work.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:42 pm