

MINUTES  
DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION COMMISSION  
Wednesday March 2, 2022 – 3:00 PM  
City Hall, 344 West Main Street  
On Main and Zoom

AT LARGE MEMBERS PRESENT: Jay Lee, John DeCramer, Joyce Tofte, Michele Knife Sterner, Marcy Heemeyer, Sara Runchey

STANDING POSITION MEMBERS PRESENT: Ted Stamp, Nicole DeBoer, See Moua-Leske, Beth Ritter, Samira Sheikh, Lauren Mellenthin, Beth Wilms, Tim Mok

ABSENT: Monica Talamantes, Don Robertson, George Taylor, Addy Wolbaum, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Assistant, Ross Wastvedt , Kumara Jayasuriya, Denae Winter, Sharon Hanson, City Administrator

STAFF PRESENT: Amanda Becker, Community Education Coordinator and Kyle Box, City Clerk

At 3:08 PM, Co-Chair Tofte called the meeting to order.

Motion by Knife Sterner, Seconded by DeCramer to approve the minutes from the February 2, 2022. All approved.

Co-Chair Tofte provided discussion on the recent World Café that happened at the end of Cultures on the Prairie. The event was well attended, and the Commission is looking forward to reviewing the information compiled by the YWCA. Tofte asked for further discussion on the April 30 World Café hosted by the School District. There was a consensus from the Commission to have the World Café subcommittee continue to work on the planning on the event.

Co-Chair Tofte introduced Pablo Obregon, Community Engagement Officer and Ku Lor, Rural Equity Specialist with Southwest Initiative Foundation. Pablo provided additional background information on Welcome Week 2022 via PowerPoint.

Discussion points included population and diversity changes in cities within our region, the Grow Our Own initiative, Welcoming America Week themed Belonging Begins with Us which will be held September 9 -18, 2022. In 2021 there was a total of 11 Communities that participated in Welcoming Week.

Last year's take aways that have occurred from Welcoming Week.

- New Leadership
- Safe Space
- Systemic Change
- BIPOC engagement
- American Dream (Economic Development)
- 2-3 generation participation

Member Nicole DeBoer commented on a grant that the community of Windom applied for and received for Welcoming Week. DeBoer provided additional insight on SMAC's grant process for 2022.

There was additional discussion from the Commission and the 2021 involvement with Welcoming Week.

Further discussion from the Commission included the invitation to additional partners and to call the Welcoming Week Subcommittee together at the April meeting.

City Clerk Kyle Box provided additional information on calling for co-chairs. The Commission previously voted to keep one existing co-chair in rotation. Box clarified the two previous nominations, Michele Knife Sterner and Marcy Heemeyer. Both nominees are still accepting of the position.

Co-Chair Lee asked for a roll call vote of the two nominations.

Member Lee - Marcy

Member DeCramer - Marcy

Member Tofte - Michele

Member Knife Sterner - Michele

Member Heemeyer - Michele

Member Runchey - Michele

Member Michele Knife Sterner was approved as Co-Chair of the Commission

Additional discussion from the Commission included World Fest, and the Juneteenth celebration in Marshall hosted by the MORE network. The MORE network is organizing the event and is reaching out to the DEI Commission inquiring on involvement. Tofte commented that if anyone would like more information or has an idea to involve the Commission.

At 4:01 PM the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kyle Box  
City Clerk