

MINUTES  
CITY OF MARSHALL  
DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION COMMISSION  
Thursday, November 2 at 3:00PM  
City Hall, 344 W. Main Street Camden Conference Room and Zoom

AT LARGE MEMBERS PRESENT: Michele Knife Sterner, Joyce Tofte

STANDING MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Erin Kline, Samira Sheikh

STAFF: Addy Wolbaum, DEI Assistant, Jasmine DeSmet, Community Education Coordinator, Sharon Hanson, City Administrator, See Moua-Leske, City Council

The meeting began at 3:03 pm

Approval of Agenda: No quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes: No quorum was present.

Dr. Erin Kline introduced herself and is excited to be part of this group and learn what type of work she can support in the community.

OLD BUSINESS

Strategic Plan update: Sharon Hanson updated the group. The group would benefit from setting goals and expectations for the DEI commission to operate under. She has contacted a few strategic planning partners to see who we can hire to do this work with our group. She would like to have those options available to review at the next meeting.

Juneteenth: The co-chairs discussed holding a general meeting on Juneteenth and have that open to the public to express ideas on the event. We did not receive the grant that was applied for, so we will need to keep that in mind while planning the event financially. They will determine some options for dates and then update the group

Youth Advisory Council: The City is looking at something like this as a whole. Is there a need for a youth council that would get the opportunity to see all the different committees in the city. Sharon did some research on other youth councils in other cities. If we feel strongly that we should offer this type of program, the DEI commission could request that the City Council take a look at supporting this initiative. Members feel that this type of program would allow youth to get exposure to the government representation of their city as well as understanding government processes and how they affect youth in their community.

NEW BUSINESS

Charter Revisions: Sharon explained that we are a Charter City and the charter is different from City Council. The charter is in need of being updated as some of the language is outdated. The Charter commission does support that decision and that it should be brought before the council.

DEI Commission Openings: We are in need of at large committee members with 4 vacancies. Dr. Kline asked if there are other student organizations on SMSU campus that we could promote the commission at their meeting. Joyce indicated that she knows a few people who may be interested, but they are curious about what we are working on and initiatives. A suggestion was made to make a "one pager" that would describe our initiatives. Addy will work on a flyer to represent information.

Upcoming Co-Chair Nomination: Michele's position as co-chair will end at the end of January, so a new co-chair will need to be nominated.

#### OTHER

IBWU: Michele said that Addy, See and herself have been working on the details of the It Begins With Us conference details. The first day involves a Poverty Simulation and the second day is a Theatre Production called "Breaking Ice."

Kao Kalia Yang: This event will take place in the Fine Arts Theater on Tues, Nov 28<sup>th</sup> from 7-8:30 pm. SMSU is partnering with MN West to bring this event to Marshall. She also writes children's books and will be visiting the SMSU childcare center to read her book.

Trans Night of Visibility will be held at Brau on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm.

Overcoming Racism Network will be held virtually coming in January. This is a free event.

November 18 is Hmong New Year Event at SMSU. Opening Ceremony starts at approximately 10am.

Sharon shared the Utilities of MN newspaper with the committee. There is a photo from our Welcoming Week featured in this paper.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jasmine DeSmet