



City of Twin Falls Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Wednesday, November 6, 2019, 4:00 PM

203 Main Avenue East

City Hall - City Council Overflow Room

SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA FOR THE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE

A QUORUM OF THE CITY COUNCIL MAY BE IN ATTENDANCE

Members: Richard Aldama, Liyah Babayan, Stephanie Nevarez, Alejandra Hernandez, Daniel Gardner, Sergio Larios, Em English

- 1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER/CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM
- 2) CONSENT CALENDAR
 - a) **ACTION ITEM:** Request to approve the Wednesday, October 2, 2019, Minutes
By: Leila A. Sanchez, Recording Secretary
- 3) ITEMS OF CONSIDERATION
 - a) **DISCUSSION:** Discussion of Charter
By: Committee
 - b) **ACTION ITEM:** Approval of Letter to Clif Bar
By: Committee
 - c) **DISCUSSION:** Listening Sessions
By: Committee
 - d) **DISCUSSION:** Written materials for members
By: Committee
- 4) ADJOURNMENT

Any person(s) needing special accommodations to participate in the above-noticed meeting could contact Leila Sanchez (208) 735-7287 at least two working days before the meeting. Si desea esta información en español, llame Leila Sanchez (208) 735-7287.

Public Input Procedures

1. Individuals wishing to provide public input regarding matters relevant to the City of Twin Falls shall:
 - Wait to be recognized by the Mayor or Chairman
 - Approach the microphone/podium
 - State their name, and whether they are a resident or property owner in the City of Twin Falls, and proceed with their input.
2. The Mayor or Chairman may limit input to no less than two (2) minutes. Individuals are not permitted to give their time to other speakers.

Public Hearing Procedures for Zoning Requests

1. Prior to opening the first Public Hearing of the session, the Mayor or Chairman shall review the public hearing procedures.
2. Individuals wishing to testify or speak before the City Council or Planning & Zoning Commission shall wait to be recognized by the Mayor or Chairman, approach the microphone/podium, state their name, and then proceed with their comments. Following their statements, they shall write their name and address on the record sheet(s) provided by the staff. The staff shall make an audio recording of the Public Hearing.
3. A City Staff Report shall summarize the application and history of the request.
4. The Applicant, or the spokesperson for the Applicant, will make a presentation on the application/request (request). No changes to the request may be made by the applicant after the publication of the Notice of Public Hearing. The presentation should include the following:
 - A complete explanation and description of the request.
 - Why the request is being made.
 - Location of the Property.
 - Impacts on the surrounding properties and efforts to mitigate those impacts.
5. Applicant is limited to 15 minutes, unless a written request for additional time is received, at least 72 hours prior to the hearing, and granted by the Mayor or Chairman.
6. The City Council or Planning & Zoning Commission may ask questions of staff or the applicant pertaining to the request.
7. The general public will then be given the opportunity to provide their testimony regarding the request. The Mayor or Chairman may limit public testimony to no less than two (2) minutes per person.
 - Individuals are not permitted to give their time to other speakers.
 - However, five (5) or more individuals that received written notice of the public hearing may appoint, by written petition, a spokesperson. The written petition must be received at least 72 hours prior to the hearing and must be granted by the Mayor or Chairman. The spokesperson shall be limited to 15 minutes.
 - Written comments, including e-mail, received by 12:00 p.m. on the date of the hearing shall be either read into the record or displayed to the public on the overhead projector.
8. Following the Public Testimony, the applicant is permitted five (5) minutes to respond to Public Testimony.
9. Following the Public Testimony and Applicant's response, Council or Commission members, as recognized by the Mayor or Chairman, shall be allowed to question the Applicant, Staff or anyone who has testified. Responses shall be limited to answering the questions asked. The Mayor or Chairman may limit the time permitted for the answer.
10. The Mayor or Chairman shall close the Public Hearing. The City Council or Planning & Zoning Commission shall deliberate on the request. Deliberations and decisions shall be based upon the information and testimony provided during the Public Hearing. Once the Public Hearing is closed, additional testimony from the staff, applicant or public is not allowed. Legal or procedural questions may be directed to the City Attorney.

* Any person not conforming to the above rules may be prohibited from speaking. Persons refusing to comply with such prohibitions may be asked to leave the hearing and, thereafter removed from the room by order of the Mayor or Chairman.



City of Twin Falls Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Wednesday, October 2, 2019, 4:00 PM

203 Main Avenue East

City Hall - City Council Overflow Room

MINUTES

Members Present:

Richard Aldama, Liyah Babayan, Stephanie Nevarez, Alejandra Hernandez, Daniel Gardner, Sergio Larios, Em English

Staff Present:

Mandi Thompson, City Manager's Office
J.P. O'Donnell, Police Department
Leila A. Sanchez, City Manager's Office

1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER/CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

2) CONSENT CALENDAR

- a) **ACTION ITEM:** Request to approve the Wednesday, August 7, 2019, and September 4, 2019, Diversity and Inclusion Minutes.

MOTION:

Liyah Babayan motioned to approve the Wednesday, August 7, 2019, and September 4, 2019, Diversity and Inclusion Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Alejandra Hernandez. Voice vote showed all members present voted in favor of the motion.

3) ITEMS OF CONSIDERATION

- a) **PRESENTATION:** Introduction of new members Sergio Larios and Em English.

Mandi Thompson introduced new members Sergio Larios and EM English.

EM English gave a brief biography of her career and family. Her purpose of serving on the committee is to be useful and a moral obligation to be seen and visible.

- b) **DISCUSSION:** Discussion of Charter

Stephanie Nevarez spoke on the following Charter objective:

- Create an informed, responsive, and inclusive relationship in order to encourage engagement in volunteer and service opportunities for members of marginalized communities.

c) **DISCUSSION:** Changes in CDBG Funds for Twin Falls.

Mandi Thompson spoke on changes to CDBG funds.

Currently, CDBG funds are available to cities through the Housing and Urban Development Agency (HUD). Traditionally, the City of Twin Falls (COTF) has been able to access funds through the Urban Renewal Agency (URA). She spoke on the 2020 census, the implications to the City of Twin Falls, and what it means when we cross the 50,000 population mark.

Possible upcoming changes.

The City of Twin Falls received notice that the city have met the population eligibility requirements to become an "Entitlement City" and could directly receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program funding in fiscal year (FY) 2020. For planning purposes, US HUD estimates the city's allocation in FY 2020 will be approximately \$342,000, based on FY 2019 allocation levels. On Monday, October 7, 2019, at the City Council meeting, the City Council will have two options to consider: (1) accept our status as a CDBG program recipient, or (2) decline our status as a CDBG program recipient and continue eligibility for State of Idaho CDBG program funding. Should the city choose to participate, HUD will provide assistance in the development of the required documents, including the development of a "Consolidated Plan."

If the entitlement is accepted, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee will be asked for their input in creating the development of a consolidated plan.

Team discussion followed.

- Assisting individuals overcome barriers
- Affordable housing
- Sidewalks (ADA accessible)
- Partner with community partners to work to provide medical help to the homeless.

Please note that after the Diversity & Inclusion Committee of October 2, 2019, the City Council on October 7, 2019, elected to accept the entitlement of CDBG funds from HUD in the amount of \$342,000.

d) **DISCUSSION:** Community Transformation Grant

Mandi Thompson explained the Twin Falls Community was awarded a grant from the Blue Cross Foundation of Idaho that aims to transform our community by focusing on physical activity and obesity in children. The grant is designed to support community partnerships that focus on improving health

conditions for youth in Idaho communities and to develop a community partnership that encourage healthy eating and physical activity. The City of Twin Falls is the fiscal agent for the Blue Cross Foundation of Idaho Community Transformation Grant. Spark Consulting Firm is the facilitator for the group.

A group of partners and stakeholders are working to identify challenges and opportunities in Twin Falls, and a part of that effort requires gathering data from parents and students. All of the information gathered through this survey will be used to inform the group on ways to improve access to healthy food and increase physical activity for our kids. The survey takes less than 5 minutes to complete, and the only requirement is that you are a resident of Twin Falls with a child in K-12 (public or private school). Feel free to forward this on to anyone that meets these requirements and would be willing to share their thoughts. I appreciate your help (and time). https://isu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0Bs4lnBqnpRVgPi

Team suggested the survey be sent to various organizations for feedback.

- Schools
- Contact radio station to broadcast
- Access to paper version of questionnaire
- Parks & Recreation staff and coaches
- Local events
- Boy & Girls Club
- Community partners

Mandi reported that the next Community Impact Team planning session will be held on November 21 from 9 am to 3 pm, at City Hall.

e) **DISCUSSION:** Refugee Center recap of the September 4, 2019, Listening Session.

Several team members explained that after the September 4, 2019, Listening Session adjourned, they met with Director Zeze Rwasama.

Alejandra suggested the team meet again at the Refugee Center to dive into the issues/challenges the center faces (transportation, mental health, interpretation services, and lack of housing.) She also spoke on the inequities of the refugee hosting program. She also stated her concern of the eight month refugee orientation program and lack of resources and support during this period.

Richard stated that refugees, with their work schedules, are having a difficulty in finding time to take English classes to help them adapt and acclimate to our country.

Alejandra suggested meeting with the Refugee Center on a quarterly or semi-annually basis.

Team discussion followed

- Federal guidelines are required to be met with the orientation process.
- Make the Diversity & Inclusion Committee's purpose more known.
- CDBG grant and how it may help with housing.

Mandi will draft a letter to Director Zeze Rwasama and request his list of priorities. In addition, invite families to the session.

Mandi did state that months back it was discussed that if we are presented with an issue in which we don't have any control or authority over, the committee can guide community partners and make them aware of concerns presented to the committee.

- f) **INFORMATIONAL:** A word of gratitude to our Police Chief for signing the letter regarding protecting the rights of illegal immigrants.

Richard Aldama referred to a letter written by the Law Enforcement Immigration Task Force (attached), and expressed a word of gratitude to Chief Craig Kingsbury, Twin Falls Police, for showing his support by signing the letter.

JP O'Donnell, Twin Falls Police Department explained that Craig Kingsbury is at a conference but will relay information to him.

Alejandra reported that on October 3, 2019, The College of Southern Idaho and The Idaho Commission on Hispanic Affairs will present the Golden Aguila Award to Chief Kingsbury for his commitment to keeping our community safe and will be honored at the Idaho Youth Hispanic Summit 2019.

- g) **DISCUSSION:** Clif Bar's CEO recent opinion piece that calls for a path to citizenship for migrant workers.

Richard Aldama introduced Megan Taros from the Magic Valley News. Megan Taros reported on a piece relating to a letter written by Clif Bar co-CEOs Kit Crawford and Gary Erickson, to the San Francisco Chronicle advocating paths for citizenship for migrant workers.

Richard suggested approaching other employers to see if they would advocate to the path for citizenship.

Richard and Alejandra will draft a letter addressed to Clif Bar CEO acknowledging them for their letter and to make them aware they have a connection with the Diversity & Inclusion Committee.

Stephanie will draft a letter to Police Chief Kingsbury acknowledging his letter by the Law Enforcement Immigration Task Force.

Mandi asked that draft letters be emailed to her within two weeks from today.

Megan Taros, Reporter for the Magic Valley News, spoke on the H2A program, the Agricultural Workers Program Act and the Bosero Program. The Agricultural Workers Program Act draft form can be found online.

She suggested that in reaching out to Clif Bar to make sure to comment on guest worker programs, who make the majority of our labor force in agriculture, should be considered in speaking in terms of a path to citizenship and a green card and a blue card.

Team discussion followed.

The state of California issue driver's licenses/limited privileges regardless of status.

h) **DISCUSSION:** Discussion of Upcoming Events and Opportunities.

Mandi and Liyah reported that they met with a group of individuals who live in Section 8 HUD housing, off of Addison, who are interested in hosting a listening session. Their number one concern is transportation and housing.

Liyah recommended meeting at the Twin Falls Housing Agency Community Room.

Team discussion followed.

Schedule a Listening Session with residents.

Other items.

Schedule a second meeting with the CSI Refugee Center.

For listening sessions, please email Mandi with contact names and community groups who may be interested in meetings with the committee.

Training opportunities:

- ACLU Idaho Activist Academy to be held on October 5 and 6th in Twin Falls and Burley.
- EM is scheduled to attend a Collective Thriving Conference on December 4 and 5th at Boise State University.

Upcoming Events:

- The 2019 Diversity & Inclusion Summit will be held on October 8, 2018, from 8 to 4pm. at Boise State University Student Union Building.
- Pastries with the President of CSI and BSU to be held on October 29, 2019, from 3 pm. to 4:30 p.m., Taylor Building
- Upcoming Burmese and Nepalese Celebration to be held in Twin Falls.

Team discussion followed.

Create a brochure and/or business cards to be disbursed at community events.

Creating a priority list for the Refugee Center.

4) **ADJOURNMENT** the meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Leila A. Sanchez
Recording Secretary

draft



Date: Wednesday, November 6, 2019
To: Diversity and Inclusion Committee
From: Mandi Thompson

ACTION ITEM

Request:

ACTION ITEM: Approval of Letter to Clif Bar

Time Estimate:

5 minutes

Background:

In response to the discussion of an article written by Clif Bar addressing a pathway of citizenship for migrant workers, Richard Aldama and Alejandra Hernandez drafted this letter to be approved by the committee for signature.

Approval Process:

Budget Impact:

Regulatory Impact:

History:

N/A

Analysis:

N/A

Conclusion:

Attachments:

1. Clif Bar Letter

The City of Twin Falls Diversity and Inclusion Committee would like to offer our sincerest appreciation and gratitude for the article you penned in the San Francisco Chronicle's September 9, 2019, Open Forum, titled: Migrant Farmworkers Deserve Respect—and a Path to Citizenship.

This submission to one of the country's leading newspapers speaks volumes about Clif Bar's recognition of the importance of migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their contribution of hard, demanding work to our food and agricultural sectors.

Your support of the pending bicameral legislation, Agricultural Worker Program Act, which would allow a path to immigration status and citizenship is extremely important. Passage of this Act would provide job security to farmworkers and benefit the industries that use them. As you've mentioned, farmworkers deserve respect and stability.

The Twin Falls City Council set a goal for the City Manager to "explore and identify specific needs within the immigrant communities of Twin Falls, as well as other marginalized groups, seeking to meet and/or enhance meeting these needs within existing City services..." The Diversity and Inclusion Committee was borne from that effort (see attached Committee Charter).

Clif Bar provides an important economic and employment presence in Twin Falls. The Committee looks forward to forging a new relationship that can address these and other similar issues.

Again, we all thank you.

Sincerely,

COMMITTEE MEMBERS LISTED HERE