



City of Twin Falls Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Wednesday, June 3, 2020, 4:00 PM

203 Main Avenue East
Council Chambers

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:** Diversity & Inclusion Committee Minutes of the April 30, 2020, Meeting.
By: Leila A. Sanchez, Recording Secretary
 - b) **ACTION ITEM:** Diversity & Inclusion Committee Minutes of the March 4, 2020.
By: Leila A. Sanchez, Recording Secretary
- 3) ITEMS OF CONSIDERATION
 - a) **INFORMATIONAL:** Timeline of appointment of new members.
By: Mandi Thompson, Assistant to the City Manager
 - b) **INFORMATIONAL:** City of Twin Falls response to COVID-19.
By: Mandi Thompson, Assistant to the City Manager
 - c) **DISCUSSION:** Roundtable on community resources for COVID-19 response.
By: Mandi Thompson, Assistant to the City Manager
 - d) **DISCUSSION:** Listening sessions and community feedback.
By: Travis Rothweiler
 - e) **DISCUSSION:** Upcoming Listening Sessions
By: Travis Rothweiler
- 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

Thursday, April 30, 2020, 2:30 PM

City Council Chambers
203 Main Avenue East- Twin Falls, Idaho

****SPECIAL MEETING****

Community Stakeholder Conversation with Twin Falls Diversity and Inclusion Committee and Mosaic Community Planning.

MINUTES

Present:

Liyah Babayan, Stephanie Nevarez, Alejandra Hernandez, Daniel Gardner, Sergio Larios

Absent: Richard Aldama, Em English

Mosaic Community Planning: Melissa Mailloux and Jeremy Gray,

Staff Present: Travis Rothweiler, Mandi Thompson

1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER/CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order at 2:36 p.m.

2) ITEMS OF CONSIDERATION

- a) **DISCUSSION:** Community Stakeholder Conversation with Twin Falls Diversity and Inclusion Committee and Mosaic Community Planning.

Mandi Thompson explained Melissa Mailloux and Jeremy Gray will be speaking with the members of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee to understand issues of housing affordability, homelessness, community planning, and a myriad of other topics specific to Twin Falls.

Melissa Mailloux with Mosaic Community Planning introduced herself and explained she would be discussing a Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, and Fair Housing Analysis overview.

She asked the Diversity & Inclusion Committee the following:

What type of affordable housing needs are greatest in Twin Falls? Are there neighborhoods in the city where the need is greater than other?

Melissa Mailloux will help with data of overall racial and ethnic composition of those in low income housing.

Input received from the Diversity & Inclusion Committee:

- Access to affordable housing.
- Once resettled, the refugee population find it difficult to find decent and safe conditions. Discrimination complaints heard from the refugee community.
- Inconsistencies in the application process.
- Long wait lists for units that are available.
- Location of housing needed south of Twin Falls, across the Old Towne Bridge.
- Discrimination complaints from felons and people with pets.
- Rising costs of housing in presidential streets and 2nd Avenues.

Melissa Mailloux explained the Fair Housing Act prohibits housing discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, and disability.

What are the city's greatest community development needs (e.g., public services, community centers, parks/playgrounds, sidewalks, ADA accessibility, economic development activities, etc.)?

Input received from the Diversity & Inclusion Committee:

- Challenges for young adults and special needs.
- Need for work force development for special needs.
- Need for youth and mental health services
- Purchase of land for youth activities.
- Sidewalks for South Park area and South Hills Middle School.
- Sidewalks needed from El Milagro, located on Washington Street to the Old Towne Bridge.

Travis Rothweiler explained the City has invested funds for the City of Twin Falls School Sidewalk Project. The location begins at Orchard Drive and extends down the east side of Harrison Street South to El Camino Avenue where children will cross at the intersection and walk on previously constructed sidewalk the rest of the way to South Hills Middle School.

Are there any housing or community development initiatives you would like to see the city consider?

Melissa Mailloux explained the grant may be used for public service such as supporting/encouraging students to higher education. Grant to a non-profit organization, sub-grant to another organization with partners.

Input received from the Diversity & Inclusion Committee:

- Education needed to encourage parents to be involved with school activities.
- Restaurant menus translated to braille for the visually impaired.
- Provide sign language.
- Building trust between parent and police in the Hispanic community.
- Need of an organization to address discriminatory concerns.

Melissa Mailloux explained that her team will be conducting sessions with four to five different groups within the community and encouraged the Committee to send her any additional comments they may have.

Travis Rothweiler explained HUD provides oversight of CDBG funds the City receives. The City Council are responsible of fund being received.

3) ADJOURNMENT

Leila A. Sanchez
Recording Secretary



Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Wednesday, March 4, 2020, 4:00 PM

203 Main Avenue East

City Hall - City Council Overflow Room

MINUTES

Present: Richard Aldama, Liyah Babayan, Stephanie Nevarez, Alejandra Hernandez, Daniel Gardner, Sergio Larios

Absent: Em English

Staff Present:

Mandi Thompson, Assistant to the City Manager
Leila A. Sanchez, Recording Secretary

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER/CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

When a quorum was present Mandi Thompson called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

ACTION ITEM: Request to approve the February 5, 2020, Diversity & Inclusion Minutes.

By: Leila A. Sanchez, Executive Assistant

Alejandra Hernandez moved to approve the February 5, 2020, Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Stephanie Nevarez. Approved.

3. ITEMS OF CONSIDERATION

DISCUSSION: Charter By: Mandi Thompson

Mandi Thompson spoke on the following.

Roles and Responsibilities:

The role of the Committee includes:

- Develop and recommend ongoing events and opportunities to engage with marginalized groups within Twin Falls;
- Work to create collaborative partnerships with community organizations that are already doing work on diversity and inclusion in Twin Falls and engage in existing and ongoing events and opportunities through these partnerships.

Team discussion followed.

Alejandra Hernandez spoke on, "***Develop and recommend ongoing events and opportunities to engage with marginalized groups within Twin Falls.***" She suggested the committee implement of what is stated in the charter by being intentional in the development of an event and breaking down the specifics of what that would look like.

Team discussion followed.

Mandi Thompson asked for clarification if she was suggesting that the committee develop their own event; and, if so, she was unsure if the city would have the ability to create a communitywide event at this point. Developing opportunities are being done with listening sessions.

Richard Aldama explained that getting to know your listening session audience prior to the listening session is the development part that is written in the Charter.

Mandi Thompson suggested the committee develop different formats or processes depending on who the committee is working with and what information is hoped to be gathered.

(Liyah Babayan joined the meeting at 4:14 p.m.)

4. DISCUSSION: Listening Sessions and Community Feedback
By: Mandi Thompson

Mandi Thompson asked for the committee's thoughts and suggestions of the listening session held at La Posada.

Team discussion followed.

Expecting a larger crowd.

Failed to reach out to the community.

La Posada expected a larger crowd.

Pamphlets were handed out after church services, etc.

Importance of one on one communication.

Additional advertising of listening session.

Use the facility (La Posada) for a broader audience.

Schedule listening sessions at a more convenient time for marginalized communities.

Three to four generations represented at the listening session.

Student involvement.

The committee will thank Shannon McGuire for facilitating the listening session.

Team discussion followed on what to do with the information gathered.

Mandi Thompson stated she would email those in attendance who choose to leave their email highlighting what was discussed, what the City can do, thank them for their participation, and inviting them to participate in future listening sessions.

Team discussion followed.

Committee to be part of the follow-up process.

Scheduling an informal follow up meeting after the listening session for feedback.

Gather information and report back to city departments, entities, legislatures, governor, etc.

After group discussion, the committee will meet on Thursday, March 12, 2020, to have a follow up discussion on La Posada listening session.

At the La Posada listening session the topic of rental application fees was discussed. Landlords are charging potential tenants application fees and are accepting far more applications from perspective tenants than they have units available.

Liyah Babayan stated the City of Boise passed an ordinance capping a rental application fee charged to potential tenants.

Mandi Thompson explained that though the City of Twin Falls has no authority over Landlord/Tenant issues, the Police

Department will investigate if fraud is involved.

5. DISCUSSION: Upcoming Listening Sessions

By: Mandi Thompson

Daniel Gardner reported on the upcoming Preferred Child and Family Services support groups starting on March 13, 2020.

Alejandra Hernandez reported the South-Central Idaho Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Board would like to have a listening session on Thursday April 9. They meet from 8 to 10 and would like to have the listening session from 8 to 9 am. Alejandra will follow up with additional details.

Daniel Gardner reported that on June 10, 2020, at the College of Southern Idaho Em English will presenting an informational documentary style video that will give background information regarding the LGBTQ+ movement and what is happening in our country. Daniel Gardner asked if it would be possible to have a table at the listening session.

Liyah Babayan reported the Twin Falls Filipino American community are interested in a listening session to discuss employment and what it's like living in Twin Falls. She will follow up with details.

She also reported on the Mother's Day Appreciation Latino Festival scheduled to be held on May 10, 2020 and suggested having a flash listening session at the event. She will follow up with details.

Daniel Gardner reported on Pride Week and the Multi-Cultural Dinner. He suggested the committee volunteer at the events. He will follow up with details.

6. INFORMATIONAL: Training scheduled with Spark! Strategic Solutions, LLC, on March 17, 2020, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm.
By: Mandi Thompson (Training has been cancelled)

7. ADJOURNMENT

Sergio Larios moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:05 P.M. The motion was seconded by Stephanie Nevarez.
Approved.



Leila A. Sanchez
Recording Secretary