



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

MINUTES

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

1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER/CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Present: Richard Aldama, Alejandra Hernandez, Stephanie Nevarez, Sergio Larios

Absent: Em English, Daniel Gardner Liyah Babayan (All Excused)

City Staff: Travis Rothweiler, City Manager; Mandi Thompson, Grant & Community Relations Manager; Craig Kingsbury, Police Chief; J.P. O'Donnell, Police Officer

Travis Rothweiler brought the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

2) CONSENT CALENDAR

- a) **ACTION ITEM:** Request to approve the Wednesday, October 2, 2019, Minutes

By: Leila A. Sanchez, Recording Secretary

MOTION: Alejandra Hernandez made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Richard Aldama. Voice vote showed all members present voted in favor of the motion.

3) ITEMS OF CONSIDERATION

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

By: Committee

Travis discussed the Charter.

The committee is designed to help assist in how to execute the policies of the City Council.

Listening Sessions within the Organization

City team members are continually engaging within the community and hosting listening sessions.

Engineering Department

Recently, Josh Baird, city staff engineer, met with Mariam Austin, who is an active senior member of our community, and a group of senior citizens to discuss their concerns. Concerns included irrigation boxes, local businesses that did not meet ADA requirements, code requirements related to trimming shrubs and bushes, site triangle issues, issues associated with detectable warning domes on the surfaces.

Other City departments have engaged with Miriam Austin and concerned seniors on a host of issues.

Police Department

Craig Kingsbury explained the department have a number of liaisons assigned to different communities. These communities are historically marginalized. Officer JP O'Donnell is the community outreach officer who oversees all of our liaison officers.

If there are any other communities who would like a liaison with the Police Department, please contact the department.

Martin Becerra works with members of our Hispanic community. Recently the department had an opportunity to participate at the Hispanic Youth Leadership Summit. Officer Becerra, along with many officers and employees used it as an opportunity to get the youth excited in a career in law enforcement. Officer O'Donnell and members of the tactical response team were in attendance.

Shawn Applewhite works as our liaison with the members of the LGBTQ+. He works during Pride Days in June and involved in other activities. He was recently involved with National Coming Out Day at the CSI. Officer Barnhart and Officer JP O'Donnell participated in that event as well.

The department also works with members of the senior community.

The department has an officer assigned to be a liaison to worship centers. In certain circumstances officers are assigned to interact with their leadership to answer questions and attend meetings.

Detective Brian Maughan is the Refugee Center liaison.

Travis asked the committee how they would like to be involved in activities to add value to some of the programs and services the city is already offering.

Committee discussion followed.

Senior Community

Travis explained that Brian Pike attends a monthly luncheon that is held at the Senior Center and is engaged as part of their program and function. Brian can share what is being discussed. The committee is invited to attend their scheduled luncheons. In the future, a listening session will be scheduled with this particular group.

Richard asked what type of mindset the committee should have when attending department listening sessions

Travis explained that every listening session will be different like the one shared by Staff Engineer Josh Baird. This is an example of a collection of issues and tasks that were shared and concerns that were made. There may be task lists or assignments that are generated that are going to be more on the softer side and unable to be demonstrated by fixing a curb, gutter, sidewalk or trimming back a bush. From an accountability piece there is a list of projects that are completed or developed. The accountability piece is to report back and to illustrate how progress is being made towards creating a better end.

Stephanie explained the more information brought back to the group is valuable.

Richard stated that overall this will facilitate better communication throughout the community.

JP O'Donnell stated the next date with Coffee with a Cop has not been finalized but will extend an invitation to the committee as soon as it is set.

Craig Kingsbury explained that Coffee with a Cop was recently held at the CSI and was geared to targeting students. This bolsters connections within the City regardless of where they come from.

The Police Department will add the Diversity & Inclusion Committee to their invite list to attend their listening sessions.

Mandi stated that all listening session will be slightly different. The seniors in which the staff engineer met with expressed an interest in hosting a listening session with the Diversity & Inclusion Committee. She said she also attended a listening session to talk about the Diversity & Inclusion Committee but spent the majority of that conversation discussing public transportation. City staff engineer was requested to address issues regarding ADA accessibility and public transportation. She asked the committee if a listening session be scheduled with the group or is it better to open up those channels of communication.

Committee input agreed to better open up those channels of communication and to explain

that there is a group that is already working to address their concerns.

Charter Moment next month: Stephanie Nevarez

b) **ACTION ITEM:** Approval of Letter to Clif Bar

By: Committee

Richard Aldama spoke on an article written by Megan Taros from the Magic Valley News 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.

Both he and Alejandra drafted up a letter to Clif Bar CEO acknowledging them for their letter and to make them aware they have a connection with the Diversity & Inclusion Committee.

Team discussion followed and changes were made to the drafted letter.
(*Final letter sent to Clif Bar is now attached.*)

Travis stated that a letter written by the Law Enforcement Immigration Task Force was signed by Chief Craig Kingsbury.

Craig Kingsbury Police explained that he along with other chiefs and sheriffs in the United States signed the letter basically advocating that law enforcement entities will protect and serve people of all cultures, all communities regardless of immigration status. The purpose of the LEITF is to advocate for sensible immigration reform that will still advocate for a strong public safety sense. He is currently working with LEITF's Executive Director in putting his name to a letter in support Simpson's agricultural bill. He recently signed a letter in regard to ask President Trump and members of congress to look at streamlining the immigration process for dependents of members of public safety that are working in the United States so they and their family members can streamline the immigration process.

Craig also shared that he is a board member of a new formed group, The Unity Alliance of Southern Idaho. The group is made up of men and women specific to the Magic Valley Counties that represent different religious affiliations, law enforcement, and different business affiliations. Funding has been secured from community partners to hire an executive director.

c) **DISCUSSION:** Listening Sessions

By: Committee

Alejandra Hernandez stated that Liyah Babayan discussed meeting with seniors. Alejandra also stated that she was approached by a group of parents who would like to discuss affordable childcare in the City.

Travis Rothweiler said he would like to invite Kylie Goeff from St. Lukes to a future meeting to discuss a recent Community Health Assessment that broke down the city in census tracks. The assessment showed that the cost of childcare was the single largest cost impacting families in our community. It often exceeded rent. There isn't a single solution our partners have been able to identify to be able to move forward other than try to find additional child providers.

Mandi Thompsons stated that she is with the understanding that CSI is in the beginning stage of expanding their childcare program and the importance of potentially locating that in an area of the city that would serve individuals of a lower income status. She discussed getting in contact with CSI, understanding where they are at and then creating a listening session to have a better understanding of the community beyond just their immediate clients that are already in their centers, early childhood programs, toddler labs and in their preschools.

Travis suggested that at the next Diversity & Inclusion meeting to invite Kylie Goeff to share the Community Health Assessment.

Travis Rothweiler stated that he would like to contact Sister Rosemary from La Posada to set up a listening session.

d) **DISCUSSION:** Written materials for members

By: Committee

Mandi stated that at the last meeting the team discussed creating a brochure and/or business cards to be disbursed at community events.

She handed out a brochure and asked for team input.

- Create an email for the diversity committee
- Place committee members photo
- Add the City of Twin Falls slogan "People Serving People"
- Replacing graphic with the committee's pictures
- Referring to the City's Website for meeting dates and listening sessions
- Creating an email list for those who are interested in joining and attending
- Text to your phone number to receive information

Travis stated that a doodle poll of different dates and times will be sent out for upcoming Diversity & Inclusion Committee meetings.

The Wednesday, December 3, 2019, Diversity and Inclusion Committee will be rescheduled for a later date.

4) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leila A. Sanchez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'L' and 'S'.

Leila A. Sanchez
Recording Secretary

