



City of Twin Falls Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Wednesday, February 5, 2020, 4:00 PM

203 Main Avenue East

City Hall - City Council Overflow Room

Present: Richard Aldama, Liyah Babayan, Stephanie Nevarez, Alejandra Hernandez, Sergio Larios, Em English

Absent: Daniel Gardner

Staff Present

Travis Rothweiler, City Manager

Mandi Thompson, Grant and Community Relations Manager

Craig Kingsbury, Chief of Police

J.P. O'Donnell, Police Officer

1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER/CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Travis Rothweiler called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

He introduced Mayor Suzanne Hawkins who is now serving as the liaison to the committee.

2) CONSENT CALENDAR

- a) **ACTION ITEM:** Request to approve the January 9, 2020, Diversity & Inclusion Minutes
By: Leila A. Sanchez, Recording Secretary

MOTION: Em English motioned to approve the January 9, 2020, as presented. The motion was seconded Alejandra Hernandez. Voice vote showed all members present voted in favor of the motion.

3) ITEMS OF CONSIDERATION

- a) **DISCUSSION:** Charter
By: Stephanie Nevarez

Stephanie Nevarez discussed the following.

Charter Objectives:

Lead and participate in community listening sessions throughout Twin Falls designed to encourage constructive dialogue among city leaders and staff and members of historically

underrepresented and marginalized communities.

All American-Conversations Toolkit

- Tips for Facilitators
- Shared the following:
- It's not about you.
- Engage people early on.
- Don't allow one person to dominate.
- Don't take anything at face value.
- Ask people to square contradictions and help them see points of connection.
- Help keep the conversation focused.
- Be aware of your own preconceived options.
- Don't be afraid of conflict, tension or emotion.

In addition, she suggested using the Participant recruitment template.

Discussion followed.

- Important to familiarize ourselves with our listening session audience.
- Embracing the emotion indicates engagement.

b) **DISCUSSION:** Listening Sessions and Community Feedback

By: Travis Rothweiler

Travis Rothweiler reported the next Listening Session will be held at La Posada on Thursday, February 27, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. Shannon McGuire from Spark! Strategic Solutions, LLC, will be facilitating the listening session. Please arrive at 5:45 p.m., or earlier to set up and welcome those who are in attendance. The doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Discussion followed.

- The target audience will be those who frequent, utilize and connected to La Posada.
- Other interested groups who would like to attend will not be excluded from attending.

Travis Rothweiler, Stephanie Nevarez and Alejandra Hernandez will meet with Sister Rosemary prior to the listening session to understand needs, issues and develop talking points.

EM English reported she is now serving on a steering committee for Magic Valley Pride/Pride Festival, which is tentatively scheduled for June 13, 2020, in the City Park.

On June 10, 2020, at the College of Southern Idaho she will presenting a short 10 to 12-minute informational documentary style video that will give background information regarding the LGBTQ+ movement and what is happening in our country. The listening session will be held in the evening. Time will be allotted for Q & A regarding discussion points around the video itself. Afterwards, a

listening session will be held with the LGBTQ+ community. Daniel Gardner has offered to help with the listening session and will assist in taking care of the initial arrangements. Em requested help with notifying the community.

The event is particularly targeted to an academic discussion forum. The ACLU and Fair Housing will be attending the listening session. A member from Fair Housing will be asked to facilitate the listening session.

Travis Rothweiler explained that he is unable to attend the listening session, but the City of Twin Falls and representatives of the City Manager's Office will be well presented. The City will also have a booth at the City Park for the June 13, 2020, event.

Chief Craig Kingsbury stated the Police Department will partner with Magic Valley Pride on the upcoming events. Contacts are J.P. O'Donnell and Sergeant Applewhite.

Liyah Babayan spoke on a potential opportunity for a listening session after the month of March. The following support groups will start on March 13, 2020 and will meet every Friday at the Preferred Child and Family Services.

The following three meetings are scheduled.

4:00-5:15 p.m.	LGBT Youth Support Group (12 -17 years of age)
5:30-6:45 p.m.	LGBT Family Support Group
7:00-8:15 p.m.	Adults

Alejandra Hernandez explained The Diversity & Inclusion Committee met with ZeZe Rwasama, Director, and Tara McFarland, Match Grant Coordinator, of the Refugee Center on September 4, 2019. Many issues were discussed at that time; therefore, she and Richard Aldama are interested in following up with a listening session.

Travis Rothweiler stated that he will reach out to reach out to ZeZe Rwasama to find a time that he believes would be best suited for his organization. Alejandra Hernandez volunteered to contact ZeZe Rwasama.

Discussion followed.

Liyah Babayan expressed her concern that refugees may be hesitant to attend a listening session at the Refugee Center because of their past experience. She explained that directly hearing from refugees is more important than hearing from agencies and directors whose job is to resettle refugees.

She then spoke on collecting a list of contacts and partners in the community. She recommended contacting leaders and partners in the community to coordinate listening sessions. She also suggested having these leaders and partners recommend others in the community to coordinate listening sessions.

Alejandra Hernandez explained that her goal is to bring people together and to not make general statements about an official agency. The Refugee Center is familiar with those who utilize their services.

Em English stated there is value of conducting sessions in multiple locations. Attendees may feel more comfortable in a school, church, community center, etc. The UU Fellowship may be willing to help with providing a facility if plans are made ahead of time.

Team discussion followed on using the participant recruitment template from the All American-Conversations Toolkit. Invitations to be sent out by the committee to leaders and community partners asking for contacts. Please send Travis Rothweiler a list of individuals, whether they are formal or informal leaders.

Team discussion also followed on the differences between leaders and representatives.

Community Feedback

Liyah Babayan introduced her guest Ron James.

Ron James stated he has a Masters in Anthropology, specialty is East Asian Culture (Chinese/Japanese), teaches part-time at CSI and ISU. He is chair of the Herrett Forum Committee for the Herrett Forum lecture series. His interest is in helping to preserve and promote ongoing diversity in this community and expressed interest in becoming a member of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee.

Travis Rothweiler stated that Mr. Ron James will be placed on a mailing list when meetings arise and when there is a vacancy on the committee. Currently meetings are scheduled the first Wednesday of every month at 4:00 p.m. He will also be placed on the citizen partnership list.

c) **DISCUSSION:** Banners and Brochures

By: Travis Rothweiler

Travis Rothweiler presented the Diversity & Inclusion Committee brochure and asked the committee to email him with their comments prior to having it transcribed in Spanish. In addition, banners will be set up at different locations and events.

Alejandra Hernandez will take the lead and contact interpreters who would assist in translating materials.

d) **DISCUSSION:** Training scheduled with Spark! Strategic Solutions, LLC, on March 17, 2020,

1:00 pm -3:00 pm.

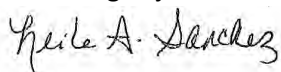
By: Mandi Thompson

Travis Rothweiler explained professional facilitator Shannon McGuire will be present at the upcoming listening session at La Posada.

Mandi Thompson discussed the upcoming training scheduled with Shannon McGuire. After committee input, the meeting is scheduled for **March 17, 2020, 3 to 5 p.m.**

4) **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.



Leila A. Sanchez, Recording