



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