



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

