

Warrensburg, Missouri
Diversity & Inclusion Commission
Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2019, 7:00PM

Attendees

The following were present: **Voting members-** Chair Suzy Latare, Vice-Chair Erica Collins, Atsuki Mori, Morris Collins, Kamel Ghazzi, Heather Jepsen, Barbara Mayfield, Leah Weller

Ex-Officio members-

City Staff- Matthew Lue; Fatma Ben Amar (Management Intern)

Visitors- Laura Lockhart; Karis Agnew, PROMO; Sarah Lawson, Daily Star-Journal

I. Call to Order

Chair Suzy Latare called to order the regular meeting of the Diversity and Inclusion Commission at 7:04 p.m. on May 6, 2019 in the Warrensburg Community Center, Room 3.

II. Approval of the Agenda-Motion Barbara Mayfield, Second- Heather Jepsen, Motion carries

III. Approval of March 4 and April 1, 2019 minutes:

a. Approval of March 4 minutes- Motion Heather Jepsen, Second- Atsuki Mori, Motion carries

b. Approval of April 1 minutes- Motion to accept with the correction of Leah's preferred pronouns of "they" and "them" Heather Jepsen, Second Kamel Ghazzi, Motion carries

IV. Guests:

a. Laura Lockhart, re: Jewish synagogue in Warrensburg. Laura comes to the meeting tonight to seeking assistance with connecting to a Rabbi who would be willing to conduct Jewish services here in Warrensburg. There is also need for space to host the service. A shared space in the beginning would be fine. Several Commissioners have contact persons and ideas of spaces which might be appropriate and are willing to share with Laura. DIC will be supporting Laura's efforts as they develop.

b. Karis Agnew, PROMO- Karis comes tonight to introduce herself and inform about the services they offer. The PROMO headquarters is in St. Louis, Mo, but Karis is based in Springfield. PROMO does advocacy work focused on the rights of the LGBTQ community. PROMO assists with discrimination reporting, proclamation, resolution and ordinance writing, working for legislation and a host of other services.

V. Community Concerns-

a. Matthew Lue shared that his children who attend Sterling Elementary and WHS have experienced incidents of racism by way of students telling racist jokes and making other commentary. Matthew finds this unacceptable and non- tolerable. He brings the matter to the DIC to bring awareness and to brainstorm how the DIC can be involved in the schools in a meaningful way to try and address the issue.

i. The Commission discussed several ideas including bringing in programming into the school throughout the year. One program suggested is one the school has

used before, “When Words Hurt” and the other is “Teaching Tolerance”, from the Southern Poverty Law Center. It was discussed that the message of tolerance cannot be a one-time event, but must be a consistent occurrence.

- ii. Barbara, Matthew and Heather will begin a draft proposal to the school district outlining the Commission's concerns, a solution and how the Commission can assist with facilitation.

VI. Community events and outreach

A. Potential activities:

- a. Sponsoring documentary movies (At UCM and other locations)- Will discuss options via email
- b. Working with the RVI School District- We will be making our recommendations.

B. Events

- a. Old Drum Festival: April 13- Several folks stopped by the table, took our info and checked out the LGBTQ Resolution
- b. Ethnic Festival- Matthew will call and arrange for us to go visit the Ethnic Festival Committee in Kansas City.

C. LGBTQ+ Multicultural Club at the WHS- Suzy will follow-up with Jane to see if there are any developments.

D. Community Survey- Erica will ask Amber when it will be completed.

VII. Budget: Motion to move discussion items to next meeting Erica Collins, Second Heather Jepsen, motion carried

VIII. Term expirations, Chair/Vice Chair positions- Motion to table to next meeting Heather Jepsen, Second Erica Collins, motion carries

IX. Other issues brought by DIC members- none

X. Other Issues brought by the public- none

XI. Items for next meeting: June 3, 2019 - as above

Adjournment- 8:02 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Collins