

CITY OF LEBANON
DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION COMMISSION
August 2, 2022— 6:00pm
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL or
Remote Via Microsoft Teams: LebanonNH.gov/LIVE

MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Ford Burley (Secretary); Nancy Graham (Public Representative); Karen Liot Hill (City Council Representative); Keiselim Montas (Public Representative); Bise Wood Saint Eugene (Vice-Chair); Emily Walton (Chair); Devin Wilkie (City Council Representative); Tia Winter (Public Representative)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Simone Whitecloud (Public Representative Alternate); Karen Zook (City Council Alternate)

STAFF PRESENT: Shaun Mulholland (City Manager)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Emily Walton calls the 2 August 2022 Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Commission (DEI) Meeting to order at 6:00pm.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. July 19, 2022

A MOTION by Devin Wilkie to approve the minutes of the meeting, as presented.

Keiselim Montas seconds The Motion.

**The Motion is approved unanimously.*

3. OLD BUSINESS

None

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Multicultural Festival w/NEXUS — Keiselim Montas and Councilor Karen Liot Hill

Keiselim Montas reports the event will take place the weekend after next. All are invited to bring flags.

B. Hartford Committee on Racial Equity and Inclusion HCoreI

Emily reports that DEI Commission member Kathy Beckett has resigned, so the Commission is in need of a new liaison. In the meantime, Devin will get updates from a member of the committee.

C. Arts & Culture — Councilor Devin Wilkie

Councilor Devin Wilkie reports no updates.

D. Collaboration on Hartford, Hanover, Lebanon and Norwich Community Safety Survey with HCorei

Councilor Devin Wilkie reports having spoken with members of the Hartford and Norwich selectboards. While independent efforts are underway, there appears to be little interest in a single regional safety survey. Discussion takes place on the potential for Lebanon to run its own. Councilor Wilkie will share examples at a future meeting.

E. Vermont Declaration of Inclusion for the City — Bise Wood Saint Eugene

Item pushed back to later in the meeting.

F. Gun violence and affordable housing concerns raised by a member of the public

Councilor Karen Liot Hill gives a recap of the public comments from the prior meeting. Bise Wood Saint Eugene will do research into the feasibility and/or usefulness of such programs at the municipal level and report back. Councilor Karen Liot Hill reports that the City Council has a new draft housing policy. Richard Ford Burley is working on a DEI Commission statement or recommendation for the Council, and will collaborate with Emily Walton on it.

G. Discrimination Survey — Bise Wood Saint Eugene/Emily Walton

Bise Wood Saint Eugene and Emily Walton report that the survey is live as of last Thursday, and dissemination efforts are underway.

I. Other New Business

Emily Walton reports on upcoming items on the Federal Calendar: August 26, Women's Equality Day; September 16-October 15, National Hispanic Heritage Month; October, National Disability Employment Awareness; November, Native American Heritage Month. Volunteers are taken to do write-ups for the website for each.

Councilor Devin Wilkie reports that November will be Native American Heritage Month in Lebanon, and that there will be educational programming. Discussion takes place regarding adding a land acknowledgement to the beginning of DEI Commission meetings. Richard Ford Burley will liaise with City Historian about the potential for a talk on the pre-settler history of the area in November.

Emily Walton suggests shifting DEI Commission meetings from two meetings per month to one, to take place on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, to which there is general agreement. The Commission will maintain its second meeting in August, but move to one meeting per month in September.

Councilor Devin Wilkie reports that the City Council will be considering the appointment of Alisha Robinson to the DEI Commission. Speaking from the audience, Alisha Robinson reports on ongoing work regarding the possibility of interactive art spaces in or near the recently-opened Northern Rail Trail-to-Greenway connecting tunnel, for example a graffiti wall. Devin reports that a graffiti wall installation exists at the skate park in West Lebanon, and will liaise with the Arts Commission over the possibility of creating similar spaces elsewhere.

H. Review and provide comment on the Anti-Harassment Policy

Item moved to next meeting for time considerations. Commission members will fill out sheet as homework, and will discuss further next meeting.

E. Vermont Declaration of Inclusion for the City — Bise Wood Saint Eugene

Al Wakefield (attending via telepresence) discusses the movement that created the Vermont Declaration of Inclusion. Councilor Devin Wilkie will send out an updated version of the City's present "Resolution for Inclusiveness" for the DEI Commission to recommend for adoption and reaffirmation.

5. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

No discussion.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

7. OTHER BUSINESS

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Emily Walton adjourns the meeting at 7:00pm.