

FINAL

CITY OF LEBANON
DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION COMMISSION
January 17, 2023— 6:00pm
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL or
Remote Via Microsoft Teams: LebanonNH.gov/LIVE

MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Ford Burley (Secretary); Karen Liot Hill (City Council Representative); Keiselim Montas (Public Representative); Bise Wood Saint Eugene (Vice-Chair; Emily Walton (Chair); Simone Whitecloud (Public Representative Alternate) (via telepresence); Devin Wilkie (City Council Representative)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nancy Graham (Public Representative); Alisha Robinson (Public Representative); Tia Winter (Public Representative); Karen Zook (City Council Alternate)

STAFF PRESENT: Shaun Mulholland (City Manager)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Emily Walton calls the January 18, 2023 Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Commission (DEI) Meeting to order at 6:00pm.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. December 13, 2022

A MOTION by Devin Wilkie to approve the minutes of the meeting, as presented. Bise Wood Saint Eugene seconds The Motion.

**The Motion is approved unanimously.*

3. OLD BUSINESS

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Revisit 2023 goals and solidify plans for implementation

i. Continue with educational initiatives

Regarding monthly observances and celebrations, Chair Emily Walton suggests updates to the Commission's website to include a detailed and updateable calendar. Regarding the Commission's informational statements, Chair Emily Walton asks whether these can be made

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more accessible online than they are at present. City Manager Shaun Mulholland responds that the statements are in the minutes of City Council meetings online. Discussion continues over the types of information and statements the Commission generates and where each type ought to live online.

ii. Continue with listening sessions: volunteers, dates, and locations?

There is general assent that the Commission wishes to continue to hold listening sessions. Discussion centers around potential places and events to try to attend, with the goal of greater community engagement. A series of “What is DEI?” events is suggested, going out to local schools, churches, and other locations. Councilor Karen Liot Hill offers to search for opportunities and report back.

iii. Continue community events

Regarding Pride, it is reported that the event will be a picnic in Colburn Park on June 16, 2023, from 6:30-8:00pm, followed by a silent disco. Help is requested in publicizing the event. Keyselim Montas and Councilor Karen Liot Hill will be liaisons with organizer. Regarding Juneteenth (June 19), Councilor Karen Liot Hill will connect with Commission members Tia Winter and Alisha Robinson, as they were members of last year’s Juneteenth Steering Committee. Regarding the Frederick Douglass reading to take place on July 4, it is recognized that while the Commission does not organize it, Commission members should make an effort to participate. Regarding the Multicultural Festival / NEXUS, to take place August 11-13, 2023, Councilor Karen Liot Hill and Keyselim Montas will again liaise.

iv. Focus on community housing

Councilor Karen Liot Hill suggests a greater focus on housing for the commission in 2023, including bringing in Community Loan Fund speakers on housing equity. Councilor Devin Wilkie also brings up potential areas for advocacy regarding Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). There is general agreement on the Commission that the topic is very important for equity in the community, and that it should remain a point of focus for the foreseeable future.

B. Committee liaison reporting

i. Lebanon Heritage Commission

Councilor Devin Wilkie reports no updates.

ii. Lebanon Arts & Culture Commission

Councilor Devin Wilkie reports no updates.

iii. Hartford Committee on Racial Equity and Inclusion (HCOREI)

HCOREI Liaison Alisha Robinson is absent.

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iv. Lebanon Energy Advisory Committee

Councilor Devin Wilkie reports that the Energy Commission is working on a project to allow the City to serve as a provider of electricity, with varying tiers of expense, related to percentage of power provided by renewable energy. Discussion revolves around which option should be the default to start ratepayers on. The Commission will not offer an official recommendation to LEAC on this issue.

5. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

No discussion.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

7. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Agenda setting

Chair Emily Walton asks for clarification on the means of generating the agenda for next meeting. There is a brief discussion on the topic.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Emily Walton adjourns the meeting at 7:15pm.