

FINAL

CITY OF LEBANON
DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION COMMISSION
November 19, 2024— 6:00pm
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL or
Remote Via Microsoft Teams: LebanonNH.gov/LIVE

MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Ford Burley (Secretary); Keiselim Montas (Public Representative); Bise Wood Saint Eugene (Chair); Simone Whitecloud (Public Representative Alternate, as Public Representative); Tia Winter (Vice-Chair)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Karen Liot Hill (City Council Representative); Devin Wilkie (City Council Representative); Karen Zook (City Council Alternate)

STAFF PRESENT: Deputy City Manager David Brooks

1. CALL TO ORDER

The November 19, 2024 meeting of the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Commission (DEI) was called to order by Chair Bise Wood Saint Eugene at 6:00pm.

David Brooks left the meeting after explaining legal details of public meetings under RSA 91-A.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A MOTION by Tia Winter that the DEI Commission approve the minutes of the October 15, 2024 meeting of the DEI Commission as presented.

Seconded by Richard Ford Burley.

**The Motion was passed unanimously.*

3. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Process for Lebanon to Become a Certified Disability-Friendly City

Dr. Kendra LaRoche from the Special Needs Support Center (SNSC) attended the meeting to present about the possibility of Lebanon becoming a certified Disability-Friendly City. She presented a draft resolution that could be recommended to the City Council, as a “visionary” first

step. Next she presented a series of practical goals that could be implemented by the City, and which the SNSC could assist with. After that she discussed money, and how the city could afford to implement some of these programs. SNSC would assist in writing the grants to pay for their own services and for the implementation of programs and upgrades. Dr. LaRoche remains optimistic about the opportunities for grants to fund this work. Secretary Richard Ford Burley spoke about connecting with the City Manager and head of the Planning Department about actions already being taken behind the scenes, and agreed to use that information to workshop a resolution that would stand a good chance of passing at the City Council level. Commission members discussed the different options presented and asked questions about the program. In general, the Commission agreed that this would be a good program to move forward with. Dr. LaRoche explained that SNSC is already working with around thirty local businesses to help them receive a disability-friendly certification, many of which are close to the end of that certification process. Dr. LaRoche also explained that the certification also extends beyond ADA accessibility to autism and mental health friendliness as well.

A MOTION by Richard Ford Burley that the DEI Commission work with the SNSC to develop a resolution on disability inclusivity to present to the City Council and to work with the SNSC on the initial phases of a program to become a certified disability-friendly city.

Seconded by Keiselim Montas.

****The Motion was passed unanimously.***

B. Affirming Spaces Project Presentation – Determine location, time, and date

Item postponed.

5. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

No comments were offered by the public.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Bise Wood Saint Eugene brought to the attention of the DEI Commission a news piece about a funding model being used in Hinsdale, Maryland to build public housing projects. It is also being used in other cities around the country. Richard offered to look into the model and see how it works, with an eye to possible replication in Lebanon.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Bise Wood Saint Eugene adjourned the meeting at 6:42pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Ford Burley, DEI Commission Secretary