

FINAL

**CITY OF LEBANON**  
**DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION COMMISSION**  
**March 17, 2026— 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 (Public Representative); Devin Wilkie (Vice-Chair, acting as Chair, City Council Representative)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Karen Zook (City Council Alternate), Simone Whitecloud (Public Representative Alternate); Tia Winter (Chair)

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Manager Andrew Hosmer

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3 **1. CALL TO ORDER**  
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5 The March 17, 2026 meeting of the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Commission (DEI) was called  
6 to order by Acting Chair Devin Wilkie at 6:09 pm.  
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8 **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
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10 **Minutes of February 17, 2026 meeting.**

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12 *A MOTION by Keiselim Montas that the DEI Commission approve the minutes of the*  
13 *February 17, 2026 meeting of the DEI Commission as amended.*

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15 *Seconded by Bise Wood Saint Eugene.*

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17 *\*The Motion passed unanimously.*  
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19 **3. OLD BUSINESS**  
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21 **A. Welcoming Lebanon Task Force**  
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23 Acting Chair Wilkie updated the Commission on the Task Force progress. There was no update  
24 from the City Council yet. The Council will be taking up applications for consideration on March  
25 18 (tomorrow). It is hoped that the Task Force can start its operations soon. Wilkie also  
26 discussed the remaining vacancies. Commission member Bise Wood Saint Eugene asked what  
27 the outreach process is, and Wilkie spoke to that. Chair Tia Winter will serve as District  
28 representative. Wilkie will approach Daybreak, and the City Manager will approach the UVBA  
29 about whether they could spread the word about needing Task Force volunteers.

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**B. Priorities and Goal Setting for 2026**

Juneteenth Update: Acting Chair Wilkie read an update from Chair Winter. HCOREI has begun work on this year’s event, and is hoping to bring in more local communities. There will hopefully be more updates at the April meeting of the DEI Commission.

Taste and Traditions: The event is scheduled for Saturday June 13, 2026. Acting Chair Wilkie gave an explanation of the event. Meghan Henry and Celeste Pfeiffer from the Libraries did the organizing last year. Secretary Ford Burley will invite them to come to the next DEI Commission meeting. Possible timing interactions were also discussed: Lebanon Opera House’s Pride celebration is scheduled for Friday June 12, 2026. Dartmouth Commencement is Sunday June 14, 2026.

NEXUS Festival: The event is scheduled to run Friday August 7 through Sunday August 9, 2026. There is an opportunity for the DEI Commission to engage on the morning of Saturday, August 8, when there will be an art market with tents and tables.

Tabling at Farmers’ Market: Jessica Giordani is the organizer of the Farmers’ Market. Commission member Saint Eugene has reached out and will hopefully hear back soon.

Recruitment Goal: The DEI Commission currently has three open Public Representative seats, and two applications in, with a potential third application to come soon.

City Manager Andrew Hosmer also discussed “Govinity”: The City website currently uses Civic Plus and Civic Clerk, but the City is trying out the Govinity platform for managing meetings, agendas, and boards. The goal would be to be able to bring up all boards and committees, see when they meet, what openings they have, and apply to participate all in one place. The City is hoping for both cost savings and increased functionality, which it is hoped will lead to more public interaction. The City Manager also discussed the Citizens Academy as an effective recruitment tool for getting residents involved in City boards and commissions.

Community engagement 411: Commission members discussed how they might play a role in helping new residents find services and access programs. One suggestion was to come up with a list of people willing to answer questions. Members noted that it could not be an official City program for liability reasons. Another suggestion was for the DEI Commission to find an existing organization to partner with, to help create more of a help network than a recommendation list. Bise Wood Saint Eugene reported that UVEAR is working on something similar, and doing monthly public outreach forums. Discussion continued on the kinds of assistance needed and able to be offered. Discussion on the topic was tabled until next month’s meeting.

Legislative goals: The Commission will continue tracking HB511 and SB62 (affecting RSAs 106-P and 106-Q) and RSA 21-I:112-116. The City Manager indicated that the NHMA gives

75 updates as well. Acting Chair Wilkie will forward NHMA updates on them to DEI Commission  
76 members. The City Manager says the City has not heard any more on the topic from the State.  
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79 **4. NEW BUSINESS**

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81 No new business was discussed.

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83 **5. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

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85 Fran Casale, Ward 2 spoke. He attended the January 20 meeting of the DEI Commission, but  
86 missed the February 17 meeting. At the January meeting, he recalled that the City Manager was  
87 going to ask legal opinion about letter sent by State to City, and asked whether the City Manager  
88 heard back. The City Manager reported that he did, and gave details of the response. He also  
89 wanted to clarify the purpose of the Welcoming Lebanon Task Force in the wake of the repeal of  
90 the Welcoming Lebanon Ordinance.

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92 **6. OTHER BUSINESS**

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94 No other business was discussed.

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96 **7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

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98 Future agenda items will be taken from the Old Business discussed at the present meeting, and  
99 the Commission will keep the “welcoming newcomers” partnership discussions going at each  
100 month.

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102 **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

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104 Commission member Keyselim Montas announced that on 9 April at 6pm, Nidia Góngora,  
105 Lebanon Opera House’s Spring 2026 artist-in-residence, would be holding a free concert.

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107 **9. ADJOURNMENT**

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109 Acting Chair Devin Wilkie adjourned the meeting at 7:05pm.

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112 Respectfully submitted,

113 Richard Ford Burley, DEI Commission Secretary