

WESTLAND DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION COMMISSION

January 20, 2022

Regular Meeting Minutes

The Westland Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday January 20, 2022, in the Gene McKinney Ballroom, Westland City Hall 36300 Warren Road, Westland, MI 48185. Meeting called to order by Chairperson Warren at 5:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commission Chair Arthur Warren.

Roll Call:

Arthur Warren, Lena Nichols, Steven Thomas, Sheree Conn, Patrick Quinn, Alternate.

Also Present: Stephani Field, Administrative Liaison

Richard Feldman, Special Guest Presenter

Ebonite Guyton - absent

Angela Rimmell - absent

Charles Corley II - absent

Special Presentations and Announcements: Richard Feldman, Suburban Connections for Collective Liberation (SC4CL)

Questions or Input on Agenda Items (Time Limit: 3 minutes): None at this time

Approval of Agenda:

Nichols motioned to approve the January 20, 2022 as presented, supported by Quinn

Motion carried

Approval of Minutes:

Quinn motioned to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 29, 2021, supported by Nichols, Motion Carried

Conn - abstained

Thomas - abstained

Unfinished Business:

1. Warren made a motion to the liaison for the Mayor to give a time line to the recommendation of the subcommittee. Quinn supported. Nichols made an amendment to the motion to request a response by next meeting. Motion carried.
2. Warren asked for the DEI Director update.

New Business:

1. Thomas motioned to delete the "sexual orientation" wording from the by-laws. Warren stated the motion is inappropriate and out of order as it states a willingness to discriminate. He also stated that the City Council has provided us with an ordinance and we will follow the law. Thomas stated that anything against God's law is not right. Warren stated that we operate on the laws of the land. Nichols made a comment that there has been enough time spent on this, they are not to support discrimination in any sense of the word. Quinn agreed.
Warren motioned to send to the Mayor for review, supported by Conn. Motion carried.

Public Comments:

1. Emily Bowman inquired as to how much of this commission is related to diversity on race, and how much is related to all other diversity. She also made a suggestion on the language of the Bylaws.
2. Lori Wilson made a statement to Mr. Thomas that Martin Luther King stood for all.
3. Mrs. Thomas wanted to follow-up on her husband's statements, stating that they judge the sin not the people, and they are standing up to be a voice for God. She stated that Martin Luther King did not stand up for sin.
4. Dan Stachow stated that he is not here to judge anybody, that's not our job. The laws are what we are living by.

Public Comments Closed

Administrative Liaison Comments:

Fields stated that the City is not in favor of deleting the "sexual orientation" language from the Commission's Bylaws.

Commissioner Comments:

- Quinn mentioned that he is not in favor changing the Bylaws.
- Nichols mentioned that she is satisfied with the Bylaws.
- Conn stated we should respect the next person as we would want to be respected.
- Warren stated that these laws were written by lawyers, and we will not discriminate, it will not be tolerated in this commission.

Adjournment:

Warren motioned to adjourn meeting at 6:54 p.m.

Nichols supported

Motion carried.

Arthur Warren
Commission Chair

Stephani S. Field
Administrative Liaison