

## WESTLAND DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION COMMISSION

April 21, 2022

### Regular Meeting Minutes

The Westland Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday April 21, 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, Patrick Quinn, Alternate, Ebonite Guyton (arrived late 5:35).

Also Present: Stephani Field, Administrative Liaison

Sheree Conn - absent

Angela Rimmell - absent

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

#### **Approval of Agenda:**

Quinn motioned to approve the April 21, 2022 as presented, supported by Nichols

Motion carried

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

Quinn motioned to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 20, 2022, supported by Corley,

Motion Carried

Guyton - abstained

#### **Unfinished Business:**

1. DEI Director Update – Ms. Field updated the Commission on the new DEI Director, Paschal Eze, who will be first Chief Diversity Officer, effective May 2. Nichols asked when this was made public. Field answered by a press release sent from the Mayor's office, which is also on the City website. Thomas asked if this is a permanent position. Guyton asked if he will be at the next meeting. Field answered this is an appointed position by the Mayor, and yes he will be at the next meeting. Thomas inquired as to when the next meeting date is. Field stated July 21<sup>st</sup>. Warren and Guyton expressed that it may need to be sooner as they would like to meet the new Director. Warren made it known that if it's a legal meeting it must be announced to the public. Nichols wanted to express her appreciation for Ms. Field taking the role as the City Liaison for the DEI Commission.
2. Update of Sub-Committee Recommendations to the Mayor – Ms. Field talked to the Mayor and he will be working with the new Director and take advisement at that time. Nichols stated that DEI is a common term now, and she hopes it's not a term in name only as she hopes we can see results from this commission. Guyton suggested that she would like it strongly advised that a police department representative be present at the next meeting. Nichols stated that police, policing African-American people complaints have improved.

#### **New Business:**

None.

**Public Comments:**

Lori Wilson mentioned that she has been attending the meetings regularly now and there are some Commissioners that she has noticed have never been at a meeting that she has attended, she inquired if there is a standard number of meetings that Commissioners need to attend. Ms. Wilson also asked that the Commissioners use a microphone for future meetings as it's difficult to hear everyone speak.

**Public Comments Closed**

**Administrative Liaison Comments:**

Ms. Field reiterated that the Mayor will review recommendations from the sub-committee through the new Director.

**Commissioner Comments:**

- Quinn asked if the police department has the number of police officers that they want.
- Nichols wanted it reflected in the Commission Comments section of the minutes that they would like the Mayor to attend a meeting. She then asked Warren if he was aware of the new DEI Director.
- Guyton stated she was looking forward to working with the new Director, and reiterated that she would like to see representation from the police department at the DEI meetings, the Police Chief or a representative.
- Corley inquired as to how many police officers have been hired for diversity.
- Warren gave his insight on some past experiences with law enforcement and minorities, and explained that as a citizen we need to dig deeper than what we hear on the street, and slow down when driving. Warren will plan on asking the new Director if he is involved in any community groups.

**Adjournment:**

Nichols motioned to adjourn meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Guyton supported

Motion carried.

Arthur Warren  
Commission Chair

Stephani S. Field  
Administrative Liaison