

MINUTES

MOUNTLAKE TERRACE DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION COMMISSION MEETING

March 15, 2023
7:00 p.m.

Mountlake Terrace City Hall and
via Telephone/Teleconference

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Chair William Paige
Co-Chair Commissioner Mojumder
Commissioner Francisco
Commissioner Deen
Commissioner Richards
Commissioner Meier (attended remotely)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Commissioner Doyle

Introductions around the table:

Council Liaison Erin Murray
Administrative Assistant Bernadette Taylor-Moses
Administrative Assistant Lan Nguyen
Sgt. Matt Porter (attended remotely)

Land and Labor Acknowledgements read by Chair Paige

MOTION

Commissioner Francisco
Commissioner Mojumder

Approved February 15, 2023 meeting minutes

Motion carried 5-0

No public comments

City Council Liaison Report

Erin Murray reported that she had the opportunity to meet with representatives in Olympia in support of the cities priorities in particular with Main Street Phase II. She attended an Equity learning session hosted by Association of Washington Cities (AWC) with equity managers and Olympia council members. The session was based on thinking about the work more intentionally when it comes to Equity. Erin will share her resources electronically with the DEI and presented

handouts of the equity framework that Olympia is utilizing as part of the project planning process. She emphasized that equity crosses all the work we do as a city, and consideration should be given to tools and processes that will help people to be able to think in a more equitable way.

Mountlake Terrace City Council on March 4th voted to move forward with Jeff Niten as the new City Manager. The next phase is to formalize an employment contract before his start date in April.

The City Council approved and made a resolution for REC income-based scholarship as there are additional funds available which should allow more access to the community.

Erin heard and responded to questions/comments about the parameters of a strategy for long term communication and platforms for DEI.

911 Brochure

Sergeant Porter of MLT PD acknowledged that his idea of when to call 911 developed from an individual who attended the Cops and Clergy meeting. He listens to DEI meetings and was motivated by one of the DEI missions to have something in hand which would connect those that don't know how to use City resources to have more accessibility. Through several partnerships Commissioner Mojumder and together with MLT Communications Manager, Rikki Fruichantie were able to customize the brochure with all the pertinent information consisting of a QR code directing the content to the MLT website where the brochure can be translated by Google translate into one hundred and eighty different languages. The brochure was also printed and is a great resource tool for outreach allowing officers to have partnerships within the community.

Unfinished Business

a. Proclamations for 2023

Commissioner Deen opened dialogue regarding Ramadan support by sponsoring and/or providing meals to the local mosque for Eid al-Fitr (the immediate 'festival of breaking the fast).

Commissioner Meier suggested City sponsorship of the Step-up program, and if not the DEI sponsoring the program in the amount of \$500.00.

MOTION

Commissioner Richards
Commissioner Deen

Sponsorship of \$500 for Step-up program

Motion carried 6-0

b. Trespass Ordinance

Chair Paige had a meeting scheduled with the City attorney on Monday, March 20th.

Project Status Updates

a. Safe Space Letter

The Safe Space letter has been finalized and ideas of how the letter will be rolled out was discussed. Recommendation was made that the letter be created with the DEIC logo inclusive of a QR code. Chair Paige and Co-Chair Mojumder recommended continuing further discussion with the MLT Communications Manager.

b. Welcome Signage

MLT PD Management Analyst, Joie Worthen is researching pricing of the signage for the Police Department.

c. Land Acknowledgement

Council Liaison Erin Murray commented and advocated that further discussion of alignment, asking the Commission to educate, provide, and present a clear explanation to the City Council concerning the land acknowledgement would be helpful. She discussed a framework of different processes, and suggested this matter maybe one of the bodies of work the oncoming consultant can engage on.

Chair Paige suggested the board explore more materials in presenting to the council.

New Business

a. Stipend Reimbursement

DEIC established a committee to further research the stipend program.

MOTION

Commissioner Deen
Commissioner Francisco

Proposed stipend for DEIC commissioners who want them

AMENDED MOTION

Commissioner Francisco
Commissioner Meier

Pursue stipend action with more details for program

Motion 6-0

b. DEI Suggestions

Commissioner Francisco has been in communication with students who have interest in the DEIC being involved with Black Students Union. She has contacted with several local elementary schools regarding involvement with the cultural night, and inquired of MLT High School if they would manage the event.

Commissioner Deen suggested the idea of having the Associated Student Body (ASB) Advisor from MLT High School coordinating students to partake in a student government day in which students meet the City government to discuss the value of adding their voices to DEI.

Co-Chair Commissioner Mojumder suggested that any future city related interview hiring should be inclusive of questions relevant to DEIC.

- c. Other Topics
DEIC participation in the upcoming Tour-De-Terrace

DEI Wins

Administrative Assistant Taylor-Moses reminded Commissioners regarding Reappointment Application due by March 17 for those whose term will end on June 30.

Commissioners Corners

Commissioner Francisco - PTA council hosted a gun safety presentation, (available on FaceBook and via website) about reducing gun violence. She attended a kindergarten fair for the Edmonds School District, and attended some local PTA groups for community outreach. Also, the PTA council hosted comedy night in Edmonds.

Chair Paige - attended Clerk's & Clergy with the City of Mountlake Terrace

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 9:10