

**Minutes
Ad Hoc Workgroup on Diversity and Equity Issues
October 28, 2021**

Chair Chung called the meeting to order at 3:34 pm.

Present: Chair Jayson Chung, Catherine Orr, Mary Anne Reed, Alicia Hazen, Jade Fea, Alder Goforth, and Raquel Diaz.

Excused: Jerry Chapa

Also Present: City Administrator Bryan Gadow, Jenna Assmus.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Alder Goforth to approve the October 7th meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Fea. Motion carried.

APPEARANCES

Jenna Assmus of the Monona Library appeared to discuss some of the ways that the Library can support this DEI work, including having an info session on November 18th at 6:30pm from the Monona ARC group, and a community read event in May 2022. She also noted that the Library may return to this group for advice on other programming and events.

Ms. Fea asked if Monona library had any Cottage Grove usage. Ms. Assmus noted that Cottage Grove usage is split between Monona and Penney libraries. Ms. Reed asked if the Monona Library can request the Dane County Mobile book library. Ms. Assmus indicated that it was a fairly set route and unsure if they did one-off events.

Ms. Orr asked if there was a Monona archive and archivist. Ms. Assmus indicated that there was not a dedicated archive, but that there was a Historic Blooming Grove society that might have more historical information available.

Ms. Fea asked if the bus stopped near the library. Alder Goforth indicated that there was a bus stop near the Winnequah park gazebo.

Ms. Assmus indicated that they are continuing to work on increasing BIPOC representation in their collections.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Making Contacts with Community Groups and Organizations

Chair Chung indicated a that the group could lay out how committee members could make connections with various community groups.

Alder Goforth discussed the affordable housing question with data from the US Census Bureau and the potential Northpointe affordable housing project at the Whitehorse properties. She noted this issue was in front of the Plan Commission and they would be a good group to connect with. Ms. Fea indicated that affordable housing is an issue for the school access, as the lack of affordable housing (rentals and ownership) is a barrier to providing spots in the Monona Grove School for diverse families.

Alder Goforth also referenced opportunities to present at the Senior Center. Chair Chung indicated that they may want to develop a few core questions to ask at these different groups to gather some data.

Alder Goforth also referenced the Parks Board, as some of the apartments in the area do not have any green space in the area for those families to use.

Ms. Reed offered the Fire Department as an option. Alder Goforth suggested the Municipal Judge and Municipal Court Clerk.

Ms. Fea indicated that the MG Parent Equity Council was some concerns with police in the middle and high school, and how to better utilize restorative justice options.

Ms. Orr asked about who puts on community events and could they be contacted.

Chair Chung asked what type of conversations could be had with the Parent Equity Council. Ms. Diaz indicated that the group was conducting fundraising for students to attend universities. Ms. Orr noted that the PEC could be asked how the City could support their efforts as part of the discussion, and how DEI was been talked about in your group.

Alder Goforth suggested a short survey to hand out to these groups to gather their feedback.

Members offered to work on general survey questions for further discussion and refinement. Alder Goforth indicated that they can use SurveyMonkey and print out questions for those who do not or cannot use computers.

B. Deed Restriction Language Efforts

Chair Chung asked how we should start with this topic. Ms. Reed asked if the deed could be altered and if people actually receive paper copies. She offered to contact the Register of Deeds to determine the process. Administrator Gadow provided an outline of potential questions to ask about how to get community access to the deed documents at no cost. She indicated she would try to contact the Deed's office before the next meeting. Ms. Orr indicated she would like to be involved in the history research component once we determine whether there is a path to pursue.

C. Schedule Next Meeting Date.

The Workgroup will next meet at 3:30pm on Thursday, November 4th.

Administrator Gadow indicated that he would send out a request for members availabilities for end of year meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Alder Goforth, seconded by Ms. Fea to adjourn. The motion carried.
(5:00 pm)