



MINUTES
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY
Friday, October 28, 2016 @ 11:30 a.m.
Council Conference Room, 10th Floor, City Hall

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m.

No quorum present.

Committee Members

Councilmember Carol Wood, Chair

Councilmember Patricia Spitzley- arrived at 11:37 a.m.

Councilmember Jody Washington- excused

Others Present

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff

Mark Dotson, Deputy City Attorney

Stephen Purchase

Mary Ann Prince

Stacey Locke, Peckham

Sandy Wolfe, Peckham

Tammy Lemmer, TCOA

Imelda Galdamez, MSU Extension

Annette Sokolnicki, MSU

Eric Weber, IAFF 421

Elaine Womboldt, Rejuvenating South Lansing

Devan Pennington, MSU Student

Guillermo Lopez

Introductions

Presentations

Annette Sokolnicki, MSU Extension Educator, District 8

Health and Nutrition Institute Michigan State University Extension

Ms. Sokolnicki and Ms. Galdamez distributed handouts on the MSU Extension office services, their efforts on Diversity and Inclusion, multicultural workshops and resources, and the Health and Nutrition Institute Nutrition and Physical Activity Workgroup Report. Included in the information was the number of bilingual staff members which was ten, and their work with the

Arabic families in the area, along with Native American families providing them with resources and assistance? They focus on the underserved members of the community.

Councilmember Wood asked them if they were aware of the recent adopted Human Rights Ordinance and Ms. Sokolnicki confirmed that they are an affirmative action organization.

Mr. Weber asked if their workshops were open to anyone and it was confirmed that they were. Mr. Weber asked if they could promote career development with the youth to promote their agency connections such as the Fire Department.

The representatives continued the presentation on the Workgroup report and the focus on teaching their participants to navigate while grocery shopping, summer work programs, nutrition education and multiple assistance in shelters.

Councilmember Wood asked if they work in the schools, and Ms. Sokolnicki assured them they do, and work on a Smarter Lunch Room program addressing policies, systems and provide a lunch room assessment to identify 3 areas of focus. In 2017 the group plans to work on maternal health focus, along with continued efforts on Project Fresh, which works with WIC recipients and WIC moms on fresh fruit.

Quorum of the committee at 11:37 a.m.

Councilmember Spitzley asked if they provide information for school age kids to take home so their parents aware of the opportunities that is available to them. Ms. Sokolnicki acknowledged it is hard to get the information on Project Fresh out because that is run by WIC, and they are just partners. They do participate with WIC on any outside events providing education and coupons.

Mr. Lopez stated that Northwest Initiatives does the box meals to take home so MSU Extension should reach out to them to put the coupons in. Ms. Sokolnicki continued stating that Project Fresh has been around for 10 years, and there have no discussions on cutting it. It is a Federal program and there is a frame work in place.

Ms. Wolf asked if the coupons can be used for plants. Ms. Sokolnicki confirmed they can be used only at farmers markets for plants and herbs.

Ms. Prince asked about reaching the diverse population. Ms. Galdamez stated that they work with low income eligible, and distribute their materials in English and Spanish, and do have State assistance with Arabic speaking participants, and also Ingham County has five (5) languages they provide nutrition education to.

Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER SPITZLEY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 23, 2016. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

Action/Discussion

Mr. Purchased confirmed the changes to the brochure had been made to make it compliant with the ordinance. The only changes needed are an updated website link since the HRCS does not have the ordinance on their web page. Mr. Purchase will provide the final brochure to Council staff to edit in the future and distribute.

8th Annual Cesar E. Chavez Memorial Observance Planning

Mr. Lopez asked for support from the attendees of the Ad Hoc Committee for the 2017 event. The date chosen for 2017 was March 31st. Mr. Lopez stated he would reach out to the LSD to confirm their spring break schedule to avoid a conflict of the attendance by a children's choir. Councilmember Wood asked anyone interested to contact Mr. Lopez with their suggestions or assistance on the event.

Updates on Participants in the Group

Ms. Lemmer reminded the group of the upcoming TCA auction and dinner.

Ms. Womboldt gave out dates for future Rejuvenating South Lansing events, and quickly outlined a bill by Andy Schor she encouraged everyone to support.

Mr. Weber outlined the upcoming election and Lansing Safe millage information.

Adjourn

Adjourn at 12:45 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager

Approved by Committee on December 9, 2016