



MINUTES
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY
Friday, November 18, 2016 @ 11:30 a.m.
Council Conference Room, 10th Floor, City Hall

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:35 a.m.

Committee Members

Councilmember Carol Wood, Chair
Councilmember Patricia Spitzley
Councilmember Jody Washington- arrived at 12:00 p.m.

Others Present

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Guillermo Lopez
Tammy Lemmer, TCOA
Jim Bale
Mark Dotson, Deputy City Attorney

Minutes

Action will be taken at the next meeting.

Discussion

Final Report to Council on Ad Hoc Committee Activities

Councilmember Wood explained the Council had decided not extend the Ad Hoc Committee for another year and that Committee was going to work on a final report for City Council. The Ad Hoc Committee would be meeting on Dec. 2nd, 9th, and 16th. She asked that the different organization create a list of highlights from their various meetings that they believe have been advantageous to their organizations. Over these next meeting a report will be written and given to City Council the first part of January.

Email from Welcoming Michigan

Councilmember Wood stated that the organization is asking the City of Lansing to recommit their efforts and resolve to continue to be a welcoming community. Presented to the Committee was a draft resolution draft to review.

Mr. Bale commented on his opinion the Ad Hoc on Diversity should continue. Councilmember Wood assured Mr. Bale that the Ad Hoc not continuing does not preclude the group to continue to meet on some type of regular basis.

The discussion went back to the draft resolution in support of Welcoming Michigan, and Mr. Lopez stated his support.

The Committee and the public changed the presented the Resolution with the following changes:

1st WHEREAS, add "The" at the beginning

2nd WHEREAS, add "2016" after "November"

3rd WHEREAS, should state "pledged", a comma after "discrimination", and add "State of" in front of "Michigan"

4th WHEREAS, add "as a City" after we, and a comma after "culture"

5th WHEREAS, add "as a City" after we, a comma between "of" and "or", a comma after "religion" in the second sentence, and a period after "identities" in 3rd sentence.

In THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED a comma after "friendly" and change "community" to "society".

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER SPITZLEY TO CONTINUE AND APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AS CORRECTED FOR "STAND STRONG RESPECT MICHIGAN REAFFIRMING THE PLEDGE. MOTION CARRIED 2-0.

The group reviewed a letter from the State of Michigan State Superintendent about standing as one in condemning intolerable conduct regardless of message or motivation. Mr. Raphael asked if the Committee would forward to the Mayor's office for a supportive letter. Councilmember Wood stated it could be forwarded to the Mayor's office to see if his office would consider the request.

Mr. Lopez invited the group to the event by LLEAD on November 21, 2016 at Cristo Rey Church. This is the group of Latino Leaders for the Enhancement of Advocacy and Development.

Updates on Participants in the Group

Councilmember Washington stated she would like the new Internal Auditor to research the differences in charges to organizations that have festivals, specifically the Caesar Chavez group. Councilmember Wood confirmed Mr. DeLine had done that already and she would get that information to Councilmember Washington and ask Mr. Brewer to continue to research the matter. An issue might have been the differences in what the invoice was. Councilmember Washington acknowledged that the group needs to be given information to help clarify the matter.

Ms. Lemmer asked if the rest of Council would support continuing the Ad Hoc on Diversity if this public group submitted information to revisit it. Councilmember Wood stated those could be part of the recommendations coming from the Committee, but it could also be instituted as a Standing Committee that meets. Councilmember Washington noted that the opposition with the rest of Council was that the Committee no longer had a legislative purpose. Councilmember Spitzley noted that some of the speakers that have appeared before the Ad Hoc would have been good to have at the Committee of the Whole for all of Council. Councilmember Wood stated she had asked Council President to have some of the speakers at Committee of the Whole but at that meeting there is no round table discussion option.

It was also noted that in the Ad Hoc Committee setting allows for more interaction and open dialogue over some very complex issues.

Mr. Lopez suggested a legislative matter could be to evaluate how certain items impact minorities.

Councilmember Spitzley suggested that if it were to continue and follow a path maybe it should be considered as a Standing Committee not an Ad Hoc.

Councilmember Wood reminded the group that establishing a policy some do not consider as legislative intent.

Mr. Raphael briefly outlined his experience with the 911 presentations, and dissatisfaction with lack of response. Councilmember Wood stated she would reach out to the Ingham County Commissioner working on Law and Courts about the issues with lack of response on 911 training and questions.

Councilmember Wood stated again that the participants can continue to meet as an informal group on regular schedule.

Ms. Lemmer noted two events coming up with TCOA, one being "No Senior without a Santa", "Holiday Gift Baskets" and Volunteers Helping with the Medicare Changes. Councilmember Wood asked if she could forward an update on any open slots to Council staff.

Mr. Lopez stated the schools have been working on the recent school bond projects, beginning with the first excavation at Fairview School.

Adjourn

Adjourn at 12:28 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager

Approved by Committee on December 9, 2016