



MINUTES
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY
Friday, December 2, 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.

Committee Members

Councilmember Carol Wood, Chair
Councilmember Patricia Spitzley- excused
Councilmember Jody Washington- arrived at 11:37 a.m.

Others Present

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Mark Dotson, Deputy City Attorney- arrived at 11:34 a.m.
Stephen Purchase
Judi Harris, St. Vincent Charities
Stacey Locke, Peckham
Jim Bale, Greater Lansing Labor Council
Sandy Wolfe, Peckham
Guillermo Lopez
Tammy Lemmer, TCOA
Jessica Lanney, Peckham
Elaine Womboldt, Rejuvenating South Lansing

Minutes

Action on the minutes from October 28, 2016 and November 18, 2016 will be addressed at the next meeting.

Discussion

Councilmember Wood distributed signed and sealed copies of the recently Council adopted resolution in support of Stand Strong, Respect Michigan. This resolution reaffirmed the City's commitment to support and embrace our diversity. She thanked each of the groups that have been part of the Committee and their hard work to engage, ask hard questions, prompt change and understanding.

Councilmember Wood provided details on the recent approval of the Zip the Grand project at Council. She stated that she had asked about handicap accessibility and the applicant

confirmed there would not be any, and that would be one of the reasons why she voted no on the project.

Ms. Womboldt spoke in opposition to the Zip the Grand project and told the group her reasons. Ms. Womboldt asked Mr. Dotson for a copy of the lease for the Zip the Grand.

Ms. Locke asked for future meetings with the applicant to address the handicap accessibility. Councilmember Wood informed her that there would be no more meetings with Council, because the project and lease was approved at the last Council Meeting. Her reason for reporting now to this group was to update them since the focus of this group was to address all aspects that include the entire population.

Ms. Womboldt asked for the Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity members to send a letter to Council to have the Zip the Grand handicap accessible. Councilmember Wood asked for clarification on if it should address just this project or all parks. Ms. Womboldt clarified she wanted it to address all parks. Councilmember Wood explained that request could be included in the report to Council on the Committee.

Councilmember Washington stated her understanding that the area around the Zip the Grand project would be accessible to be used by participants with disabilities, but not the rope course or zip line.

Final Report to Council on Ad Hoc Committee Activities

Councilmember Wood explained the Council had decided not to 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. 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. It was stated that Council Members do not believe that the Committee has any goals for legislative matters they still need to address.

Mr. Dotson asked again why the Council chose not to extend it. Councilmember Wood reiterated from the last meeting the concerns of some Council Members.

Festival accounts and billing and determinations.

Councilmember Wood distributed information from the LPD and the Internal Auditor research on special events, invoicing, and charges. The report states that every organization is charged the same, but some of the events the City have been a sponsor, so there is offset with regards to the items they are billed for.

Councilmember Washington asked about the Tejano Festival, and Mr. Lopez added that this festival was hosted by the Cesar Chavez Committee, raise money for the Cesar Chavez Plaza where it is held, and they still have to pay all the fees. The question was asked why they do not receive any assistance. It was asked that this festival be added to the research the Internal Auditor is compiling.

Councilmember Wood reiterated that some of the events have been sponsored by the City, but that festival did not have sponsorship from the City. Councilmember Washington acknowledged, however again stated her belief that it is problematic that the Latino community is not getting the same support.

Councilmember Wood assured her that Mr. Brewer has asked for the most current billings, but has not received those yet. Councilmember Washington asked Mr. Lopez to present these spreadsheet his next meeting with the Cesar Chavez Committee meeting.

Final Report to Council- continued

Councilmember Wood referenced Committee minutes from the past 2 years, highlighting items for the group to consider reporting on. The focus on the report will include the following:

- Complaint and Concerns by Carmen Benevides regarding ICE role and portrayal in the District and Circuit Courts in City Hall. The Committee had the LPD and Court present at a meeting where they explained their practices and what changes they were making. The group did ask ICE to also present, however they never responded. It was confirmed that District Court has adopted procedures since this came to everyone's attention.
- Snow Sergeants project was begun with a former Council Member, and since it could not be addressed via that route it was turned over to the Ad Hoc on Diversity. There were two organizations that stepped up to offer volunteer assistance and fill the fiduciary role. These were TCOA, CACIL, and Peckham. The Council continues to receive calls for assistance, and Councilmember Wood recently met with a MSU student on options where they could assist and recreate the program. The group discussed further options for assistance, the fact that volunteers are hard to get and maintain on a regular basis. Council Members encouraged TCOA and Peckham that if those funds the City distributed to them in the past were not used because the program did not succeed this year, it should be returned to the people who donated at the end of this winter season. Mr. Bale and Councilmember Washington offered their assistance to Councilmember Wood if anyone contacts her for shoveling assistance this winter. Mr. Dotson suggested the Courts required community service program.
Areas to explore for volunteers—Michigan WORKS, Peckham, Courts, School Honor Groups, Neighborhood Organizations.
- Bob Perialas with BWL presented to the group on their billing program such as Pennies for Power, some of their language barriers, and provided future informational handouts. At the time of this presentation there were no non-English speaking employees to address for billing inquires, so they were going to research addressing that. The presentation also focused on website issues, rentals, and senior rates. Councilmember Washington offered to ask Mr. Peffley for an update on the diversity in the calling center, an update on 3rd party billing and any update on Pennies for Power.
- CATA Situation resulted in the Committee addressing and amending the Human Rights Ordinance. The group also created a brochure on the topic. The HRCS Department was asked to provide training, and the group also asked for all departments to provide training for new hires.
- LPD Chief Yankowski presented to the group his promotion process and hiring process. At this meeting there was a focus with the Chief on outreach areas, training, working with the LGBT community, and bi-lingual languages. Councilmember Wood stated that as of the date of December 2, 2016 she believed there were still eight (8) open positions, and at the Ad Hoc meeting the Chief attended there were over 20. Some officers that have been hired are bi-lingual.
Ms. Locke recalled the Chief stating they would provide accommodations during testing if they were requested, and at this meeting she now asked if the LPD could change their procedure to ask and not wait for someone to tell them they need accommodations. Mr. Lopez informed everyone of a group called ALPACT (Advocate of Leaders of Police and Community Trust) that work with Michigan Rights where they bring in local police and

community leaders on how to act and react. Mr. Lopez stated he would forward this information to Council staff to distribute.

Councilmember Wood reminded the Committee that the next last two meetings of the Ad Hoc will continue discussing what items need to be part of report to Council.

Councilmember Washington shared her experience at the recent World Aids Day event she attended on December 1, 2016. This event supported HIV awareness and encouraged support and proper treatment. There was a focus on education and acceptance.

Ms. Wolfe congratulated Councilmember Washington on her recent award from Andy Schor.

Updates on Participants in the Group

Mr. Lopez highlighted his attendance at a recent DeWitt schools community meeting on the recent publicity on diversity.

Ms. Womboldt distributed the Rejuvenating South Lansing 2017 meeting schedule.

Ms. Locke acknowledged Mr. Lopez for all his work, and then Councilmember Wood and the Committee on Public Safety for their roles recently with 3200 S. Washington.

Councilmember Wood stated that at the next meeting, 12/9/2016 will have Ms. Boyer with LLMSW, Legal Advocate SAFE Place.

Adjourn

Adjourn at 12:40 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sherrie Boak, Council Office Manager

Approved by Committee on December 9, 2016