



Minutes
Committee on Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
Wednesday, September 28, 2022 @ 4:30 p.m.
City Council Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Jackson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Council Member Jackson, Chair
Council Member Brown, Vice-Chair
Council Member Hussain, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Lisa Hagen- Lawrence, OCA
Joseph Abood, OCA
Randy Watkins
Kendall O'Connor
Joel Blanding

MINUTES

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 14, 2022, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time.

DISCUSSION

RESOLUTION – Appointment; Kendall O'Connor; 1st Ward Member; Diversity Equity and Inclusion Advisory Board; Term to Expire 6/30/2025

Ms. O'Connor explained she is a municipal lawyer in Okemos representing cities and townships, but wanted to speak today as a Lansing resident for this Board. Council Member Jackson asked what her interest in this board was a draw, and Ms. O'Connor stated she believed she could bring her experience and education in diversity and education. Council Member Jackson asked if she would be interested in new policy. Ms. O'Connor noted in 2020 she was aware of parking permits to park on the streets in the residential area, and since that time it was rescinded. Items such as that is a barrier for some people and need to be addressed.

Council Member Hussain noted the ordinance outlines a list of items this Board will do, and encouraged her to become aware of the ordinance and what is required of the Board and make things operational for the community. Council Member Brown concurred with the statements by Council Member Hussain.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF KENDALLO'CONNOR AS 1ST WARD MEMBER OF THE DIVERSITY EQUITY AND INCLUSION ADVISORY BOARD WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE 6/30/2025.
MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Appointment; Randy Watkins; 4th Ward Member Diversity Equity and Inclusion Advisory Board; Term to Expire 6/30/2024

Mr. Watkins explained he was a life long Lansing resident, and majority of time in 4th Ward. He then expanded on his role on the Lansing Branch of the NAACP, and Associate Professor at MSU teaching American Government. Earlier he served on the Mayors Equity Counsel, and applied for this so he can educate everyone on the history of the MRJEA work. Mr. Watkins noted it is important to have this history in setting up this new Advisory Board.

Council Member Jackson asked about his approach to speaking on topics that can be sensitive. Mr. Watkins explained meetings he has had personally with the Mayor on the role and previous roles on the Mayor's Equity Counsel. He spoke briefly on issues with communications between the Administration and the Equity Counsel at the time. He concluded by making note he expects this new Board will have numerous conversations with the Mayor in the future to speaking on where they find any deficiencies. Council Member Jackson noted it was encouraging this appointment was from the Mayor. Mr. Watkins assured the Committee that any issues in the past with Boards and Administration, they have always operated on going to the source first before the media.

Council Member Brown spoke in support of the appointment.

Council Member Hussain spoke in support of Mr. Watkins work in the past on the other boards.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF RANDY WATKINS AS 4TH WARD MEMBER OF THE DIVERSITY EQUITY AND INCLUSION ADVISORY BOARD WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE 6/30/2024. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

OTHER

No other topics of discussion.

Adjourn

Adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

Submitted, Sherrie Boak

Recording Secretary, Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on November 16, 2022