



Minutes
Committee on Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
Wednesday, December 14, 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
Raquel Sparkman
Emily Sorroche

MINUTES

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 16, 2022, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Lynn stated he is in the 4th Ward and was hoping to hear the Committee Report and what is going on with the Mayor's DEI Board, lot's of money toward this and haven't seen anything, as well as the gun violence consortium, the public would like to see and hear what is going on.

DISCUSSION

RESOLUTION – Appointment; Raquel Sparkman; 3rd Ward Member; Diversity Equity and Inclusion Advisory Board; Term to Expire 6/30/2023

Councilmember Jackson ask Ms. Sparkman to give a brief intro and explanation on why she would like to be a part of the DEI Board. Ms. Sparkman responded that she has lived in Lansing her whole life, currently works at CMH-DEI and is on the DEI work group when a colleague told her about this board and feels she can bring her experience to it and get involved in the community. Councilmember Jackson asked how she feels about adversity and going against the flow, Ms. Sparkman asked for clarification. Councilmember Jackson asked if she believed she was in the right and someone went against her how would she respond, Ms. Sparkman stated she would have dialogue with that person and asked for clarification if it was something she wasn't familiar with and go from there. Councilmember Jackson asked what DEI means to her, Ms. Sparkman responded that it could mean a variety of things involving, disabilities, different culture, race, gender, and LGBTQ, just a host of different aspects meaning to be inclusive.

Councilmember Hussain mentioned that he appreciates her interest and with all boards they want to make sure appointees are aware of the importance of attendance, understanding that

things do come up occasionally but committee and being there. He added that he would like to invite her to his constituent meetings as well at the Schmidt Community Center, on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF RAQUEL SPARKMAN, 3RD WARD MEMBER OF THE DIVERSITY EQUITY AND INCLUSION ADVISORY BOARD WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE 6/30/2023. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Appointment; Emily Sorroche; At Large Member Diversity Equity and Inclusion Advisory Board; Term to Expire 6/30/2026

Councilmember Jackson welcomed Ms. Sorroche and asked her to introduce her background for the Committee. Ms. Sorroche stated she has lived in Ingham County for the past 20 years and in the City of Lansing for 5 years. She specializes in adversity at MSU Agriculture and Natural Resources, wanting to be an action piece and folks coming together, as well as pieces that have been silent in the Indigenous community. Councilmember Hussain mentioned that it jumped out to him that two members of the Community chose this board and is excited, and added the importance of attendance and making sure Ms. Sorroche is on board, Councilmember Jackson concurred.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF EMILY SORROCHE AS AT LARGE MEMBER OF THE DIVERSITY EQUITY AND INCLUSION ADVISORY BOARD WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE 6/30/2026. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

DISCUSSION – Committee Report for 2022 and Equity Diversity and Inclusion Priorities for 2023

Councilmember Jackson referenced the previous year-end report and apologized it wasn't in the packet, he was unable to confirm in time. He went through the recommendations for the Committee and receiving quarterly reports from the Mayor's DEI Board but thought the MRJEA was no longer in existence. Ms. Hagen-Lawrence confirmed it was merged into the Mayor's DEI Advisory Board. Councilmember Brown asked about HRCS quarterly reports and metrics for them. Councilmember Jackson stated that is the next bullet point and continued adding efforts to address homelessness and shelters. Councilmember Hussain added that in January when the Committee is re-established, we can convey all this on the record.

Councilmember Brown asked if this is supportive for this Committee or is the AdHoc Committee appropriate, Councilmember Hussain added that it is be in either one, it will be up to new Leadership to continue or disband the AdHoc. Councilmember Brown asked about adding best practices and policy change, Councilmember Jackson stated that would be part of the quarterly update to review then suggest changes. Ms. Lynn asked about an update on the Walter French building as well. Councilmember Brown added on the City website HRCS has the community providers and as an example they have 70 agency's and 50 get approved then report out on the 20 they didn't and why, having performance measures in order to have a dialogue.

Councilmember Hussain concluded that there is an item in Council meetings for Committee reports if someone chooses to speak. Councilmember Jackson lastly asked about the Sustainability Manager and getting a summary, Councilmember Hussain indicated that doesn't apply to this Committee.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO PLACE ON FILE THE COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2022 AND EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION PRIORITIES FOR 2023. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

OTHER

Mr. Lynn spoke again on the big issues that DEI should be dealing with regarding violence, poverty, and homelessness, indicating that nobody is asking if it's working and not reporting back. Ms. Lynn had a question about the quarterly reporting back to COW and recommends that be a minimum. She suggested a template that way they know what is being asked and can't say they don't have the information, they have some accountability and can't stay stagnant. Ms. Lynn concluded she is hoping the City will look at opening warming centers in the short term to help with the upcoming winter. Councilmember Brown agreed with Ms. Lynn on the template and the reporting.

Adjourn

Adjourned at 5:13p.m.

Submitted, Renee Richmond

Recording Secretary, Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on January 18, 2023