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## **Cultural Inclusion and Diversity Committee MEETING NOTES**

**April 20, 2009, Village Hall, Room 101 7:15 PM**

### **Committee Members Present:**

Kenneth Griesemer, Mathew Idicula, Jammye Woods, and Ron Woods.

### **Others Present:**

Trustee Toni Carter (Board Liaison), Sue Krauser (filling in for Staff Liaison), and Linda McCance Packham.

### **Others Absent:**

Philip Anderson, Rohit Bhatt, Maura Contreras, Laura Ehorn, Debra McDonald, Louise McFadden, Manhar Patel, Gayle Peneschi, Sandra Vincent-Richard, Rev. Craig Stroder, Jennie Swanson, and Maria Washington.

### **I. Call to Order – Roll Call**

Since a quorum was not present, an official meeting of the Cultural Inclusion and Diversity Committee could not be held. However, those present continued to hold an unofficial meeting to discuss Committee business without taking any official actions. The meeting commenced at approximately 7:15 p.m.

### **II. Presentation of Agenda**

Since a quorum was not present, the Agenda was not presented for approval.

### **III. Approval of Minutes from March 16, 2009.**

Since a quorum was not present, the Minutes were not presented for approval.

### **IV. Multicultural Day Celebration--Debriefing**

The meeting started with discussion about the Multicultural Day Celebration. All agreed the events were nice and they enjoyed the dancers. Mathew Idicula would like to see it become a bigger event. Ron Woods raised concerns about the behind the scenes planning and stated that more cooperation was needed. Trustee Carter agreed and believed that staff worked too hard. Mathew Idicula mentioned that his planning committee was not available and Ron Woods suggested that in the future, committee members bring up any issues that don't feel right in advance, so that everyone is aware and can do more to help.

Trustee Carter then stated that schools were never notified about this event, so she would like to see the communication staff improved. Linda Packham suggested it might be interesting to find out more about cultures such as when they dance, what their various gestures and clothing symbolize. Trustee Carter thought this was a good idea and felt that in the future, time should be allowed for a question and answer session. She would like to see us teach people about other cultures to foster a better understanding. Ron Woods suggested committee members attend events other cities hold to get ideas for future events.

## V. Old Business

## VI. New Business

- a. Trustee Carter discussed changes with various committee members. She noted that Louise McFadden has moved and will no longer be a member. She also noted that once Eira Corral becomes Village Clerk, she will be removed from the Committee and further discussion should take place as to whom will replace her as co-chair. It was noted that due to Rev. Craig Stroder's illness, he should be placed as an alternate member, as well as Laura Ehorn. Trustee Carter stated that as we are losing members, we should recruit new ones and need to think about more diversity on the committee. She also noted that we will need to appoint some of the new members as alternates.
- b. Discussion then took place about meeting dates and times. Trustee Carter stated it was important to have quorums at meetings. Once members have been officially removed from the committee, there will be a quorum of seven needed versus eight. She raised the question as to what the rules were if they were to have workshops or sub-committee meetings, and Linda Packham replied that they would need to post it as a public meeting, but they are not as restricted. You would still take minutes, but it would not be official business. Trustee Carter noted that they would consider that. She then questioned if we could have online or phone meetings and what the rules were. Linda Packham commented that she believes there to be a present policy. You could have meetings by phone, but a quorum would be needed in the room. Trustee Carter had thoughts of assigning members to different months so that a quorum is present, and others could then call in on a bridge number. It was also noted that an e-mail would be sent out to members to see if they have a continuing interest to serve on the committee, or if they would prefer to be an alternate member.

Further discussion was had as to if the committee should have a different meeting schedule. It was suggested that meetings be bi-monthly and perhaps have conference calls the other months. Another suggestion was made to cancel first quarter meetings all-together. Trustee Carter would like to get through this first year and then evaluate it further. She also would like to look into what the policy states to see if we can make these meetings more convenient for members. A questionnaire will be sent out to Committee members to determine what day of the week and time works best for each member. This item should be added to the agenda for further discussion. One final note was that Trustee Carter would like to see meeting minutes out sooner.

- c. Discussions took place about things happening with other committee members. It was noted that Rev. Craig Stroder has been ill and flowers should be sent to him from the Committee. Trustee Carter mentioned that at the next meeting, she would have flowers and a cake available for Maria to congratulate her. Finally, it was noted that Frank Grant-Acquah had a death in his family and a card should be sent to him from the Committee. It was suggested that going forward, a "recognition and congratulations" item be added to the standard agenda.

- d. Trustee Carter mentioned her interest in planning a training session for committee members. Her thoughts were to spend four hours (10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.) on a Saturday in June to have a workshop on MBIT (Myers Brigg Type Indicator). This tool will help determine who the natural leaders are and they can help members develop their skills. This training is recommended so the Committee can match skills sets on their planning teams. This item should be added to the next agenda for further discussion.
- e. Mathew Idicula expressed an interest in having committee members travel to various locations to learn of other cultures. Trustee Carter expressed a concern about the financial aspect of this idea. One suggestion was to get the 501c3 organization going so that fund-raising could be done. This item should also be added to the agenda. Another thought was getting the committee changed to a commission, so there is more freedom to raise money and have programs. Trustee Carter would like to get this on the agenda.
- f. Mathew Idicula discussed the subject for his dissertation and mentioned his graduation is taking place on May 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. in the University of Rockefeller Memorial Chapel in Chicago (55<sup>th</sup> & Woodlawn Avenue). He will send Sue Krauser further information which will then be sent to committee members if they would like to attend. Trustee Carter would like him to do a 10-minute presentation on his dissertation findings at the next committee meeting, and requested this be added to the agenda.
- g. The meeting wrapped up noting the next event to be planned is the Car Show in August. Trustee Carter also noted that she would like to have Rev. Brooks (head of Illinois Human Rights and Diversity Committee) come in and speak to the group. The next meeting will take place on May 18, 2009 at 7:15 p.m. in room 101.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Sue Krauser, 4/20/2009

Recorded by / Date