

**CITY OF HUBER HEIGHTS
STATE OF OHIO**

Culture and Diversity Citizen Action Commission Meeting Minutes

Name of Body: Culture and Diversity Citizen Action Commission
(CDCAC)

Date: September 2, 2021

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Place: City Hall – 6131 Taylorsville Road – Council Chambers

1. **Members Present:**

Dr. Frederick Aikens
Jean Newby
Tara Purvis
Estephon Ramirez-Not Present
Arrick Richardson
Mia Honaker – Not Present
Eric Stephens
Yolanda Stephens - Chair
Rhonda Sumlin – Vice Chair

2. **Guests Present:**

City Staff Present: Bryan Chodkowski, Assistant City Manager.

3. **Call to Order**

Chair Yolanda Stephens convened the Culture and Diversity Citizen Action Commission at 7:06 P.M.

4. **Roll Call**

Roll call attendance was taken, and all members were present except for Mia Honaker and Estephon Ramirez.

5. **Approval of Minutes**

July 1, 2021, Minutes

CDCAC Chair Yolanda Stephens asked if there were any revisions to the July 1, 2021, minutes. Jean Newby said on page 10, under the 2022 Commission Events Calendar, there is a sentence that says another guest spoke up. Jean Newby would like the guest's name added; the guest's name is Mrs. Tonya Mason. Dr. Fred Aikens motioned to accept the minutes, with the amendment; Jean Newby seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed.

This Culture and Diversity Citizen Action Commission meeting was recorded by the City and the recording of this meeting will be posted to the City's website and will also be maintained by the City consistent with the City's records retention schedule.

6. **Topics of Discussions:**

- A. Committee Reports and Recommendations
- B. Old Business
- C. Council Recommendation Updates
- D. New Business
- E. Voter Registration
- F. DEI Stakeholders
- G. 2022 Planning (Projects, Programs, Events)

7. Committee Reports and Recommendations

Outreach Committee

Committee Chair Dr. Fred Aikens stated the Committee met on Tuesday, August 24, 2021. They discussed the Huber Heights Multicultural Festival, which is scheduled for Saturday, June 25, 2022, from 12:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. Their discussion included inviting participants, hiring disc jockeys, and obtaining sound equipment. The Committee also discussed an essay contest for high school students to recognize Native American Heritage Month. The contest is planned for late November 2021 and Dr. Aikens is waiting on a call back from Wayne High School so he can firm up the details. The Committee also discussed 2022 Martin Luther King Day activities, including a Unity Walk, which is planned for Monday, January 17, 2022. The Committee discussed plans to celebrate Juneteenth, which is Sunday, June 19, 2022. Because Father's Day and Juneteenth fall on the same day in 2022, they would like to have a Father's Day Funk Festival and concert at the Rose Music Center at The Heights. The Committee is planning on a week of activities between Juneteenth and the Multicultural Festival and will have further discussions. Dr. Fred Aikens asked Assistant City Manager Bryan Chodkowski how to go about booking the Rose Music Center. Assistant City Manager Bryan Chodkowski said the City doesn't normally book events at the Rose Music Center during concert season, which normally runs from mid-April through Labor Day. He further explained that Music and Event Management Incorporated (MEMI) handles booking artists and the City has no input into the dates and artists booked. Because the Rose Music Center may not be available on June 19, 2022, Assistant City Manager Bryan Chodkowski suggested the Committee look at alternative sites. CDCAC Chair Yolanda Stephens asked if the Outreach Committee had reached out to other Commissions/Boards for assistance and Dr. Fred Aikens replied no, he wanted to book a venue first. Assistant City Manager Bryan Chodkowski said he would provide the information for the proposed Father's Day Funk Festival to MEMI, but the final decision is up to MEMI.

Reform Committee

Committee Chair Eric Stephens stated they last met on July 22, 2021 and discussed the need to establish a strategic plan to hire more diverse police officers. The Committee is going to review the City of Dayton's recruiting plan, plus other local communities, and see if they can leverage anything. The Committee is planning on discussing the results of their research with Huber Heights Police Chief Mark Lightner.

Education Committee

Committee Chair Jean Newby stated they met on Tuesday, August 22, 2021, and discussed a recap of the first quarterly forum that was held on Saturday, July 10, 2021. Committee Chair Jean Newby thanked the Education Committee, the CDCAC, the City Council, and the community for their participation. There were 20 people that attended and all but three of the City Council members were present. The livestream on Facebook had problems initially, but the problems were corrected, and they had 272 livestreams on Facebook. Committee Chair Jean Newby would like for the entire CDCAC to sign Thank You cards for the panel members: Dr. Christa Agiro; Dr. Nicole Carter, and Dr. Carol Meja-LaPerle. The Committee also did a Lessons Learned. They decided they need to plan much earlier and engage City Council members more and ensure they have information ahead of time. The Committee plans on meeting with panel members before the next planned forum and contact each individual City Council member to see if they have any questions/concerns. The next forum is scheduled for Wednesday, October 13, 2021, 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. and the topic will be "Why Declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis Matters." The guest panel members will be Dr. Michael Dulan, Dr. Jeanette Robinson, and Dr. Genevieve Ritchey-Ewing. The location has changed from Wayne High School to the Huber Heights Community Center, 4301 Powell Road, Huber Heights, Ohio. There will be adequate room to socially distance and they will be following current COVID protocols. Committee Chair Jean Newby will meet with Mr. Josh King, Huber Heights Parks Manager, and finalize details. Committee Chair Jean Newby stated since the location has changed, all advertisements for the forum will be redone to reflect the new location.

Committee Chair Jean Newby further stated the Education Committee would like to collaborate with the Reform Committee to set up a meeting with Huber Heights Police Chief Mark Lightner, preferably in January 2022. Reform Committee Chair Eric Stephens replied he had spoken with Police Chief Lightner and Chief Lightner would like to see the questions before the meeting. Committee Chair Eric Stephens asked if there was a preferred day or time for the meeting; Dr. Fred Aikens replied they are flexible, and it is based on Police Chief Lightner's availability. Dr. Fred Aikens suggested Chief Lightner attend the October 13, 2021, forum to see the format and feels it would assist Chief Lightner in sharing his view of policing in the City of Huber Heights. Education Committee Chair Jean Newby stated the intent of the January 2022 meeting is not put anyone on the spot, it is to gather information. CDCAC Chair Yolanda Stephens asked if there was a topic for the first 2022 forum and Committee Chair Jean Newby replied no, they will determine a topic after the January 2022 meeting with the Reform Committee and Police Chief Lightner. Committee Chair Jean Newby shared they are planning on semi-annual forums versus quarterly forums, because they don't want to overwhelm the Committee or the CDCAC with events.

Advocacy Committee

Committee Chair Tara Purvis stated they met on Thursday, July 22, 2021 and finalized rapid response protocols and discussed other committee processes. The Committee would like to do a fall or winter related event and looking at a community engagement event such as a scavenger hunt. The Committee also discussed voter registration and mobilization events for the Fall.

8. Old Business

Council Recommendation Updates

CDCAC Chair Yolanda Stephens stated the recommendation to City Council from the Outreach Committee to rename Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day, the recommendation from Reform Committee to establishing a citizen complaint process and the recommendation from

the Advocacy Committee to establish a Black Business of the Quarter recognition program are on the September 7, 2021, City Council Work Session agenda. Assistant City Manager Bryan Chodkowski stated the recommendations will actually be on the agenda for the September 21, 2021, City Council Work Session. Assistant City Manager Bryan Chodkowski clarified the recommendations are establishing a citizen complaint process, the Black Business of the Quarter recognition program, and gathering voluntary EEO information for job applications. Assistant City Manager Bryan Chodkowski said the deadline for the formal recommendations should be submitted to Human Resources Director Katie Knisley no later than 12:00 P.M. on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, for inclusion in the September 21, 2021 Work Session agenda. Assistant City Manager Bryan Chodkowski added the City's labor attorney had reviewed the proposed voluntary EEO information form for job applications and it will be implemented January 1, 2022, pending approval from City Council. CDCAC Chair Yolanda Stephens will resubmit the recommendation to rename Columbus Day to Indigenous People Day for inclusion on the September 21, 2021 Work Session agenda since there has been no update on approval/disapproval.

9. New Business

Voter Registration

CDCAC Chair Yolanda Stephens stated the CDCAC had done a voter registration drive in 2020 and are planning other drives in 2021. She stated they are planning on setting up a booth at the Huber Heights Farmers Market on Saturdays and looking at other potential sites and asked for suggestions. Dr. Fred Aikens stated the last day to register to vote in the 2021 election is October 4, 2021. CDCAC Vice Chair Rhonda Sumlin asked if there are attendance numbers for the weekly Farmers Market. Assistant City Manager Bryan Chodkowski replied that the Parks Director Josh King and Community Engagement Specialist Sarah Williams could provide a rough estimate. He suggested the CDCAC look at setting up voter registration booths at the Friday night high school football games. The CDCAC will contact the high school athletic department and see if that is possible and look at other high school athletic events also. After discussion, it was decided the CDCAC

will set up voter registration booths at the high school football games instead of the Farmers Market.

DEI Stakeholders

CDCAC Vice Chair Rhonda Sumlin stated that Greene County Voices has an excellent initiative and work with Sugarcreek Cares, Inclusive Fairborn, Yellow Springs Speaking Up for Justice in Yellow Springs, and Citizens for a Better Beaver creek. They are doing great work relating to DEI and keeping constituents aware of pending House and Senate Bills. She suggested that everyone look at the Greene County Voices Facebook page because they have lots of good information and asked that CDCAC members look at establishing partnerships with those organizations. CDCAC Chair Yolanda Stephens shared the City of Kettering Board of Community Relations is sponsoring a community-wide racial equity inclusiveness and diversity meeting on September 16, 2021 and invited the CDCAC to attend. CDCAC Chair Yolanda Stephens and Vice Chair Rhonda Sumlin will represent the CDCAC at the meeting.

2022 Planning (Projects, Programs, Events)

CDCAC Chair Yolanda Stephens stated she would like for the CDCAC to have a finalized calendar for 2022 events, including any policy amendments, ready to present at a November 2021 City Council meeting. She asked that all Committees finalize information during their October 2021 meetings and submit their final calendar events at the CDCAC meeting scheduled for November 4, 2021.

10. Adjournment

Chair Yolanda Stephens adjourned the meeting at 7:57 P.M.