

## Culture and Diversity Citizen Action Commission Meeting Minutes

**Place:** Remote Meeting – City Hall – 6131 Taylorsville Road – Council Chambers

Chair Yolanda Stevens convened the Culture and Diversity Citizen Action Commission at 7:09 P.M.

4. **Roll Call**

Roll call attendance was taken, and all were present except for Ms. Mia Honaker and Dr. Fred Aikens, who were officially excused.

5. **Approval of Minutes**

Chair Yolanda Stephens stated the CDCAC Chair and Vice Chair positions must be re-elected annually. She asked if anyone was interested in serving as the CDCAC Chair or Vice Chair for 2022. Vice Chair Rhonda Sumlin expressed her interest in becoming the Chair and suggested that the Vice Chair move into the Chair position to allow someone else to serve as the Vice Chair. Chair Yolanda Stephens also expressed her interest in remaining as the Chair. After discussion, Jean Newby motioned to retain Yolanda Stephens as the Chair and Rhonda Sumlin as the Vice Chair; Eric Stephens seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed.

Chair Yolanda Stephens moved on to approval of the December 2, 2021, minutes. She asked if there were any changes and there were none. Chair Yolanda motioned to accept the December 2, 2021, minutes as written; Jean Newby seconded the motion. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

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
- B. Old Business
- C. City Council Work Session-January 18, 2022
- D. 2022 Calendar
- E. 2022 Committee Budgets
- F. Volunteer Planning
- G. New Business
- H. Work Groups

- I. Ex-Officio Commission Member
- J. COVID 19 Safety Protocols for Meetings
- K. City Council Recommendations

## **7. Committee Reports**

Education Committee – Committee Chair Jean Newby stated they met in January 2022. The January 4, 2022, was the rescheduled December 2021 meeting and the second meeting was the regularly scheduled monthly meeting. During the January 4, 2022, meeting, they discussed the final plans for the joint forum with the Reform Committee. The joint forum was held at the Huber Heights Community Center on January 12, 2022, with Huber Heights Police Chief Mark Lightner. The Vandalia Police Chief, Kurt Althouse, did not attend due to illness. Guests attending included most of the Huber Heights City Council, Huber Heights Mayor Jeff Gore, and President Dr. Derrick Foward and First Vice President Ms. Mattie P. White of the Dayton Unit of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). There were approximately 20 people who physically attended and 629 Facebook views. The Education Committee would like to partner with the Reform Committee again and target the youths of the community. During the January 12, 2022, forum, three high school students attended and one of the students asked some very good questions about policing. During the January 31, 2022, meeting, they discussed the next forum to be held on June 23, 2022, addressing the topic of “Racism as a Public Health Crisis-Part 2.” That forum will focus on psychological, economic, and social effects of racism. The Committee will continue to prepare for the June 2022 forum. They intend to engage more of City Council and suggested that the CDCAC have a one-on-one session with City Council to see what actions the City has taken since the April 2021 proclamation of racism as a public health crisis. Committee Chair Jean Newby added she was re-elected as the Committee Chair and Mia Honaker will serve as the Committee Chair in 2023. They also discussed their budget for guest speakers for the June 2022 forum as well as the future joint forum. CDCAC Chair Yolanda Stephens thanked all members and agreed the students had good questions and one of the participants suggested they have a similar session with the Huber Heights Police Chief and the high school. She has reached out the interim high school principal, who in turn discussed it with government teachers, about setting up a future discussion about policing. CDCAC Chair Yolanda Stephens will contact

Clerk of Council Anthony Rodgers to set up a meeting with City Council to revisit the racism as a public health crisis proclamation.

Outreach Committee – Because of Dr. Fred Aiken’s absence, Committee member Rhonda Sumlin reported they met on January 31, 2022, and finalized the essay contest. She also reported Dr. Fred Aikens was re-elected as the Committee Chair. All student winners and teachers were presented with winner certificates on January 26, 2022, and a school administrator will deliver checks to all winners at a later date. They discussed revisiting the essay contest since they did not get the participation they wanted from the students. They are considering allowing students to use Tik Tok to create videos addressing specific target areas, pending CDCAC and legal review and approval, during the week between the Multicultural Festival and the Juneteenth/Father’s Day Funk Festival celebrations. The contest would be titled Tik Tok Challenge. They also discussed engaging with the Diversity Club at the high school and getting them involved in future activities. They did a recap of the Martin Luther King (MLK) Unity Walk; the walk was cancelled because of inclement weather but there were 25 guests that attended the program. The Committee thanked City Council members Glenn Otto, Nancy Byrge, and Anita Kitchen and Mayor Jeff Gore for participating and Pastor Kent O. Johnson of New Season Ministry for allowing the program to be held in the church. They also discussed more ways to be more community service oriented and looking at a service project in the future. The Juneteenth/Father’s Day Funk Festival has presented some challenges with Music and Event Management Incorporated (MEMI) on scheduling the Rose Music Center at The Heights and music acts. The Committee met with Interim City Manager Bryan Chodkowski and City Councilmember Mark Campbell to discuss the booking process and planning for the festival. They also have an artist that is interested in participating and are working on details for that. If the Committee cannot procure the Rose Music Center by February 22, 2022, the Festival will be held at Eichelberger Park. The forum on “Racism as a Public Health Crisis, Part II” is scheduled for Thursday, June 23, 2022, followed by the Multicultural Festival on Saturday, June 25, 2022, and the Juneteenth/Father’s Day Funk Festival on Sunday, June 19, 2022. Mia Honaker is working on a vendor registration list and currently has five (5) vendors; vendors have until May 1, 2022, to register. The Committee is looking at additional vendor sources such as the Ohio State Multicultural Center and the Dayton African American

Cultural Festival. They have a hired a disk jockey/sound person for both events at a cost of \$2,400.00. The food pantry donations from the MLK Unity Walk will be stored at the Huber Heights Community Center. CDCAC Chair Yolanda Stephens asked the Committee what they need from CDCAC, and Rhonda Sumlin replied they need volunteers, vendors, and entertainers for both events.

Reform Committee – Their January 2022 meeting was the joint forum with the Education Committee on January 12, 2022, as previously reported under the Education Committee report. Committee Chair Eric Stephens said the forum was informative because the Huber Heights Police Chief discussed use of force, recruiting, transparency, and the citizen complaint process. The Committee’s next meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2022, and the new Committee Chair will be elected at that meeting. Chair Yolanda Stephens added there were 6-8 people that viewed the joint forum live stream on Facebook.

Advocacy Committee - Committee Member Rhonda Sumlin reported their last meeting was November 17, 2021, and they discussed National Make a Difference Day, which is October 22, 2022, and would like to do a community service project or event related to health care. They further discussed health care disparities faced by people of color and improving access to health care in their community. They recently learned there is a Community Health Center opening on Chambersburg Road and will reach out to them to see what services they offer. Rhonda Sumlin asked all CDCAC members to mark their personal calendars for October 22, 2022, and CDCAC Chair Yolanda Stephens reminded Rhonda to place that date on the CDCAC calendar.

## 8. **Old Business**

### City Council Work Session-January 18, 2022

Chair Yolanda Stephens presented an overview of the CDCAC accomplishments for the year during the above mentioned Work Session. She stated they would like to see more participation from City Council and the presentation initiated some good discussion during that meeting. Vice Chair Rhonda Sumlin asked if information for CDCAC events can be emailed to City staff members. Human Resources (HR) Director

Katie Knisley replied they will push the information out to everyone and post the event flyers on the bulletin board located inside City Hall. She added they are going to send the web links for the forums out to all City employees. Chair Yolanda Stephens stated the City Council asked for a budget and expense report for 2021; HR Director Katie Knisley said she will provide that. Chair Yolanda Stephens asked about diversity training for the City staff and HR Director Katie Knisley replied they are looking at bringing in someone to conduct the training and supervisor training in the future.

#### 2022 Calendar

Chair Yolanda Stephens reminded everyone to post all events on the CDCAC calendar.

#### 2022 Committee Budgets

Chair Yolanda Stephens said she received line item requests for all Committees.

Volunteer Planning – CDCAC has reached out to the high school and Vice Chair Rhonda Sumlin has reached out to the Goodwill/Easter Seals senior employment program to recruit senior citizens as volunteers for future events. Chair Yolanda Stephens stated that no one has applied for the vacant CDCAC seat. Eric Stephens suggested they look at the original CDCAC applicants and see if they are still interested. Chair Yolanda Stephens said she will contact them.

### **9. New Business**

#### Work Groups

Chair Yolanda Stephens stated they had previously discussed establishing Work Groups instead of having frequent Committee meetings. Clerk of Council Anthony Rodgers suggested they designate two to three (2-3) people to work on specific tasks and they would not be designated as an official Work Group. The task groups cannot make decisions but will pass information on to the Committee or CDCAC member for action.

### Ex-Officio Commission Member

Chair Yolanda Stephens discussed the definition of ex-officio commission member. The ex-officio commission member is appointed by either City Council or the established Commission as needed. Residency in the city is not required; however, when considering such an appointment, residential, business, or organizational ties to the community and expertise will be taken into consideration and they serve without compensation. Ex-officio commission members must apply and pass a background check, which is the same for any Board or Commission member. Chair Yolanda Stephens said they would like to look at appointing a representative from the Dayton Unit of the NAACP to the CDCAC as an ex-officio commission member. There was discussion and Eric Stephens motioned to appoint an ex-officio commission member from the Dayton Unit of the NAACP and Tara Purvis seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed.

### COVID 19 Safety Protocol for Meetings

Vice Chair Rhonda Sumlin reminded everyone they should be practicing social distancing and other preventive measures during their meetings and events. She expressed her concern about physically attending public meetings since the state of Ohio legislature no longer allows virtual public meetings.

### City Council Recommendations

Chair Yolanda Stephens stated that during the January 18, 2022, City Council Work Session, she provided a list of recommendations that were previously provided to City Council in February and July 2021. The proclamations that the City denounce racism as a public health crisis, Juneteenth, and Indigenous People's Day have been completed. City Council will continue to amend the City website to reflect different minorities. She reminded CDCAC members that future grant applications should be sent to her and HR Director Katie Knisley, and they will work with the Community Engagement Specialist and City

Council to submit those grant applications. Chair Yolanda Stephens asked about the status of diversity training for City staff leadership and all Boards and Commissions members. HR Director Katie Knisley said the Clerk of Council Anthony Rodgers may piggyback off the City staff diversity training and they are looking at Quarter 2. The July 2021 recommendations were sent to City Council in August 2021, but City Council said they had not received them. The July 2021 recommendations were resubmitted in January 2022 with the original requested timeline. The recommendations include the establishment of a citizen review board for police complaints, gathering EEO data from City job applicants, and recognition of black-owned businesses. HR Director Katie Knisley said she is working on the EEO form.

#### Follow Up Times on Recommendation Made to Council

Chair Yolanda Stephens reminded everyone to follow the previously approved timeline procedures and expressed her concerns about the recommendations not being provided to City Council for approval. HR Director Katie Knisley responded she will follow up and the CDCAC can also reach out to the Clerk of Council. Chair Yolanda Stephens requested that the CDCAC be notified when recommendations are placed on Council agenda for discussion so a CDCAC member can be present at that meeting.

#### Action Steps for Council

Previously discussed above. HR Director Katie Knisley will notify the CDAC when it will be discussed at a Work Session.

### 10. **Adjournment**

Chair Yolanda Stephens adjourned the Culture and Diversity Citizen Action Commission at 8:46 P.M.