

**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: July 7, 2022

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Place: City Hall – 6131 Taylorsville Road – Council Chambers

Members Present:

Jean Newby
Carla Staigl
Tara Purvis
Arrick Richardson
Eric Stephens-excused
Fred Aikens
Bayram Gulalieu-excused
Yolanda Stephens - Chair-excused
Rhonda Sumlin – Vice Chair

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair, Rhonda Sumlin convened the Culture and Diversity Citizen Action Commission at 7:03 P.M.

2. Roll Call

Roll call attendance was taken. Mrs. Yolanda Stephens and Mr. Eric Stephens, and Mr. Bayram Gulalieu were excused from this meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes

June minutes were not available at the time of the meeting. Dr. Fred Akins made a motion to table the approval of the minutes from the June 2, 2022 commission meeting. Mr. Arrick Richardson seconded the motion. Vote was taken and all present members were in agreement.

4. Citizens Comments:

Janelle Smith was present for the meeting and shared comments. Mrs. Smith thanked the Commission for the work the Commission is doing in the community. She shared her own experience with discrimination with the Commission. Mrs. Smith also felt that the increase in water main breaks is an example of environmental discrimination and that is was a basic human right. She shared that she felt there were a lot of needs that needed to be addressed by this Commission and hoped that the Commission would not be dissolved.

5. Old Business:

A. Culture Week:

1. **Brief Recap:** Commission members were asked by Ms. Rhonda Sumlin to share a few thoughts and takeaways from the events held during Culture Week. Ms. Jean Newby noted that she was impressed with the difficult discussions and willingness to have those conversations by the members of City Council that were present. For the wrap-up takeaways from the event, the need to maintain written documentation or contracts for events and need to get permission in advance to record the sessions. Rhonda noted the importance of building collaborations with non-profits in the city to sponsor and become involved in events. Ms. Jean Newby also noted the Commission's appreciation for Mr. Josh King, Sgt. Forseth for his assistance with the logistics for the Financial Literacy event, and for all of the City Council members and Mrs. Katie Knisley for all of the assistance with the Culture Week events. Mrs. Carla Staigl shared that she enjoyed the financial literacy seminar and found the five-finger exercise shared at the Racism as a Public Health Crisis impactful. Ms. Rhonda Sumlin shared that she enjoyed the children dancing with her at the Multicultural festival. Mr. Arrick Richardson felt that the city really needed these events and was proud of the events overall
2. **Evaluations are due July 23, 2022-**Ms. Rhonda Sumlin sent out evaluations to all of the vendors at the Culture Week events. They are due to be returned by July 23rd.
3. **Honorarium for Robin Taylor and Joseph Bush-**Ms. Rhonda Sumlin suggested that the Commission provide an honorarium for the two massage therapists that attended the Health Fair event and

provided chair massages. Rhonda suggested that the amounts received would be \$135 for Joseph Bush and \$155 for Robin Taylor. The difference in amounts is justified by the amount of time they spent at the event. Robin Taylor attended the event from 10-6 and Joseph Bush attended the event from 10-3. Ms. Tara Purvis made the motion to approve the honorariums for both Ms. Robin Taylor and Mr. Joseph Bush. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Carla Staigl. All members present voted in agreement.

4. **DEI Holiday Meet-up:** Ms. Rhonda Sumlin shared that she is involved in a DEI group that consists of groups of different grassroots organizations in the Miami Valley. Rhonda would like the Commission to hold the next event that is scheduled to take place in November. The hosting group provides the entree and the guests bring sides. The meet-up could be held at the Community Center on Powell Rd and needs to be held before the holiday. Carla made the motion for the Commission to hold this meet-up with other DEI groups in November. Ms. Jean Newby seconded. All members present voted in agreement.

B. Make a Difference Day-10/22/2022

Make a Difference day event, Pink Out and Pearls is in the planning process. This is a Breast Cancer Awareness Event with a focus on education and awareness. There is a ServeOhio website where the Commission can share details on the Make a Difference Day events. Task group for this event is Tara, Rhonda and Jean. Vendors are needed that are specific to the needs of those currently fighting Breast Cancer or survivors. Task group needs to look into possible grant opportunities.

- C. Goals and Initiatives for September meeting:** Rhonda would like all members to bring back some goals and initiatives for the rest of 2022 and 2023 at the next meeting.

D. Update to Existing Recommendations:

1. **Community Needs Assessment:** Needs the Mission/Purpose statement for Reform and Advocacy before it is ready to be sent back to the City Council.
2. **Citizen's Complaint Review Board-**The Reform Committee is meeting with city staff to start the implementation planning process

for the CRB. The City is ready to move forward with the implementation of this recommendation.

3. **City Manager Search**-The Commission made a formal recommendation to City Council to restart the search for the City Manager due to perceived bias in the current process. No update was available at the time of the meeting.

E. New Business

1. **Joint Meeting with City Council**- The City Council would like to hold the joint meeting to discuss the Citizens Review Board and the Community Needs Assessment on August 4th during the time of the regularly scheduled Commission meeting. Rhonda asked all members of the Commission to share their availability for that meeting.

- F. **Citizens Complaint Review Board**-Ms. Rhonda Sumlin would like the Commission members to begin to brainstorm on how they see the structure of the Citizens Review Board working best. Does the Commission see this working best as a fully independent board, or partially under the City's oversight?

- G. **MLK Unity Walk/Day of Service-January 16, 2023**: Ms. Rhonda Sumlin asked to start the task group for the MLK event in 2023 and to approve the event to add to the Commission's calendar. Dr. Fred Akins made the motion and Ms. Jean Newby seconded the motion. The MLK Unity Walk/Day of Service will be held on January 16th. Task group tbd.

6. **Adjournment**-9:19pm.