

ACTION LETTER

Thursday, September 2, 2021

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Gray called the September 2, 2021 Commission for Diversity and Inclusion meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members Present

Chairperson Gray
Vice Chairperson Wilson (arrived at 6:25)
Commissioner Henson
Commissioner Ivy
Commissioner Martin
Commissioner Schuler
Commissioner Ivy
Commissioner Mahmood (via Zoom)
Commissioner Courtney
Commissioner Grogan
Commissioner Holland

Staff

Stephen Arbo
Trisha Fowler Arcuri

3. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Grogan, seconded by Commissioner Schuler to approve the agenda as published. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

4. Approval of the Action Letter dates August 12, 2021.

A motion was made by Commissioner Schuler, seconded by Commissioner Martin to approve the August 2, 2021 Action Letter. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

5. Public Comments

There were no Public Comments.

6. Report of Vision Statement

Chairperson Gray advised the Vision Statement and Guiding Principles Subcommittee met via Zoom on September 1, 2021. He noted they determined that words could mean different things to different people and they are looking for a common language.

The Commission reviewed the proposed Vision Statement and the language from the August meeting.

After discussion the Commission reached a consensus to use the following Vision Statement:

Lee's Summit embraces the differences in our community.

We value each individual's culture, background, and identity; and strive to promote mutual respect, understanding and representation of all.

We are committed to eliminating barriers, improving access to resources and creating growth opportunities throughout the community.

(Note: Their Action Letter will be made an attachment to this Action Letter for the Commission as a whole.)

7. Working Committee Breakout Session A (30 minutes)

The Business Community Working Committee met for the first time. Their Action Letter will be made an attachment to this Action Letter for the Commission as a whole.

The Youth and Education – Family Units Working Committee met for the first time. Their Action Letter will be made an attachment to this Action Letter for the Commission as a whole.

8. Working Committee Breakout Session B (30 minutes)

The Culture and Arts Working Committee met for the first time. Their Action Letter will be made an attachment to this Action Letter for the Commission as a whole.

9. Working Committee Reports

Business Community Working Committee discussions included:

- Networks (Chamber, Downtown Main Street, Economic Development Council)
- Contacting business owners they know
- Resistance by some groups and how to overcome
- Working with Velocity and local entrepreneurs
- Lack of diversity in key groups
- Stakeholders: Black and Hispanic Chambers, Civic Roundtable, not-for-profits and many more

Culture and Arts Working Committee discussions included:

- Diverse opportunities
- Stakeholders: City, Arts businesses, community organizations, artists, citizens
- Encourage to be a bigger part of the community

Youth and Education – Family Units Working Committee discussion included:

- Youth and Children – access, services, mental health, all abilities, education, discriminatory practices
- Stakeholders: Consultants, Parks and Rec, marketing, school districts, vendor (services), families and children and access to resources, cost and transportation.

10. Status Update on Consultant Recruitment

Mr. Steve Arbo, City Manager, stated the Request for Proposal (RFP) is still out on the market at this time. The deadline for submissions is September 16, 2021. October will be the soonest that a decision can be made on the chosen consultant. There have been a few interested candidates and the is hope to get as many options as possible.

11. Review of Commission Work Plan

Due to the meeting running long, the Commission agreed to discuss this at the October meeting.

12. Roundtable

Commissioner Ivy stated she felt this was a great meeting and enjoyed working through the definition list for clarification of common language.

Commissioner Martin noted the last Fourth Friday Art Walk was very successful with a more diverse group this year. He would like to discuss with them to see what they did different this year.

Commissioner Courtney said she is looking forward to working in the subcommittees and networking with other groups that are doing the same thing and share a common goal.

Commissioner Grogan noted he felt the discussions this group was having were great and helped to focus on the challenges and solutions.

Commissioner Mahmood stated she has a friend that is on the Diversity and Inclusion Commission for Parkville and thought it would be beneficial to reach out to them to network as well.

Commissioner Holland said he is excited about the work they are doing as it becomes tangible. He is encouraged and motivated to keep moving forward.

Mr. Arbo said his employment with the City for over 20 years is due to the great employee's, elected officials and citizen groups that continue to move the ball forward. He expressed his appreciation to the group.

Vice Chairperson Wilson said she is happy to see the leadership emerging from this group with great ideas and a willingness to lead.

Chairperson Gray thanked everyone for their leadership and active involvement. He looks forward to improving the lives of Lee's Summit citizens.

13. Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Chairperson Gray adjourned the September 2, 2021 Commission for Diversity and Inclusion meeting at 8:20 pm.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Action Letter for Vision Statement and Guiding Principles Working Committee

Attachment B – Action Letter for Business Community Working Committee

Attachment C – Action Letter for Culture and Arts Working Committee

Attachment D – Action Letter for Youth and Education – Family Units Working Committee