

MINUTES

Thursday, January 3, 2008

**Sioux Falls
Diversity Council**

1:30 p.m.—3 p.m.
Instructional Planning Center
201 East 38th Street

Attendees: Mayor Dave Munson, Betty Oldenkamp, Chief Doug Barthel, Qadir Aware, Pastor Dwayne Williams, Clara Jacob, Teresa Frederick, Ken McFarland (Minnehaha County) for Carol Twedt, Dr. Pam Homan, and Ryan Green.

Public Present: Julie Waage, Betty Ann Gross, and Catherine Riffle

Staff: Jodi Schwan, Chief of Staff, Dr. Bill Smith, Instructional Support Services Director, Jeff Munce, Human Resources Manager, and Carol Garry, Human Relations Assistant.

1. Welcome

- Chairperson Oldenkamp called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm with roll call.

2. Approval of Minutes

- Barthel moved to approve the minutes from the November 6, 2007, meeting; Green seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote as presented.

3. Election of at-large member – Clara Jacob

- Aware moved to nominate Clara Jacob as the third at-large member. Pastor Williams seconded. Jacob was approved as an at-large member to the Diversity Council by unanimous vote.

4. Public Comment

- Currently meetings are open to the public.
- Non-council members will sit in a designated area, not at the table with the Diversity Council members.
- Chair Oldenkamp proposed to have: a designated time early in the meeting for public comment, a registry for guests/members of the public sign in, a limit to their speaking time (total time to 15 minutes, no more than 3 minutes per person), limiting speaking time to new comments, any discussion or questioning of an issue brought up through public comment should go through the Chair in case a separate meeting is needed.
- Dr. Homan questioned whether the meetings need to be open to the public. There will not be a quorum or more of elected officials present that would require an open meeting per state law. If this meeting will meet for public comment, how will the public know where/when to come? There are stakeholders meetings

Chair: Betty Oldenkamp

Vice Chair: JR Castillo

STAKEHOLDER PRIORITY COMMITTEE
Qadir Aware – Chair
Teresa Frederick – Vice Chair
Clara Jacob

DIVERSITY CONF. COMMITTEE
Committee Chair
Committee Vice Chair

MEDIA COMMITTEE
Committee Chair
Committee Vice Chair

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scheduled for public input. The Council meetings are for the work of the Council and having public comment at the meetings will take valuable time away from conducting their business.

- Aware suggests we publicize when the Council is meeting and invite the public to write letters regarding comments, input, or issues to the Council to discuss at their meetings.
- Jacob suggested having a committee to hear from the public.
- Dr. Smith agrees with Dr. Homan that the meetings should be exclusive to Council business, but we need to be available for their input/comments. The public should be able to contact any member of the Council regarding their concerns.
- Chief Barthel suggested having a place on the website for comments/input.
- Aware moved to have a three member committee for the public to contact and the committee will bring it to the Council for discussion and/or a solution. (No second – further discussion).
- Munce asked if the proposed committee of three will take comments received at the Council's physical office (walk-ins) and through the comment section on the website and sift through them and decide which the Council will take action on.
- Aware suggests that when a comment is received or if a meeting is requested to discuss an issue, the three member committee will be contacted to set up a time to meet. Alternately if all three members are not available whoever is available can meet. The Council agreed they need to be available to the public. It was discussed that the citizen should be able to bring concerns to any Council member.
- Oldenkamp stated changes will need to be made to the by-laws outlining how public comment is to be received. And after it is drafted, bring it back to the Council as an amendment to the by-laws. The Mayor agreed.
- Dr. Homan asked how often the community-wide meetings were planned – Dr. Smith answered, a couple of times a year.
- Dr. Homan moved to have an amendment to the by-laws that would address the process for public comment/input prepared and brought to the next meeting. Mayor Munson seconded. The vote was unanimous.

5. Discuss 11/29/07 Stakeholders' meeting.

- Dr. Smith provided a summarized outline of the issues identified at the stakeholders' meeting.
- The issues were categorized into groups: language, education, community/business education, and transportation/housing/childcare. The categories included both issues and possible solutions.
- Dr. Smith reviewed the list with the group.

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- The 'Diversity Stakeholder Meeting Summary' is the information to be shared with those who participated in the stakeholder's meeting. This has not been done yet to afford the Council an opportunity to review it before it is distributed.
- Dr. Homan suggested we wait until we determine what actions the Council will take before the summary is sent out.
- Discussions on language issues - one concern was the availability of a professional, i.e. an attorney or police officers, that speak another language like Spanish fluently or mental health professionals that understand the language/culture. Aware stated that even the larger cities he has visited don't have those professionals available with the exception of California/Spanish. Maybe the answer is getting the information regarding interpreters out to the community.
- The next step is to determine what action can be taken on the issues by the individual groups represented by the Diversity Council, based on their area of knowledge/expertise and bring them back to the Council to determine which issues/actions will be taken on by the Council.
- Aware moved to have three Diversity Council members meet with Smith and Munce to put together a priority list of the issues brought to the subcommittee. Mayor Munson seconded. The individual members are asked to submit their list (at least 2) of priorities to the committee by January 17, 2008. Jacob, Aware and Frederick will be on the subcommittee.
- Past efforts – the business community's Diversity Fair and the Media Campaign – do we want to commit at this time to continue with those efforts again this year? We should identify our priorities and then use these past efforts as solutions to the issues identified.
- Jacob suggested using a diversity advocate as a resource for the stakeholder's issues.

6. Discuss Diversity Council Logo options

- Dr. Smith passed around the logo options provided by Henkin Schultz. Examples include: Diversity Council outside a box – explanation: we don't all fit in the same box; = Diversity Council – explanation: the sum total of all individuals equals diversity. Henkin Schultz is willing to look at other ideas. Chose the 'happy' sample.

7. Martin Luther King Day Activities

- 7:30am (Finding the Value in Your Neighbor) – Prayer breakfast at the MultiCultural Center; display of materials at the MCC during the day
6pm – gather in front of City Hall for a march to the MCC in memory of Dr. King and his accomplishments
7pm – MCC – Celebration - speeches, choir, Historical Society recognition of Dr. King's visit to Sioux Falls, cake.

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Spread the word. The event is sponsored by the MCC, the Minnehaha Historical Society and the African American community.

8. Set Next Meeting Date

- To be determined after the subcommittee meets.

9. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 2:50pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jeff Munce.