

MINUTES
THE CITY OF ST. CHARLES
EQUITY & INCLUSION COMMISSION
THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024, 5:00 PM
2 EAST MAIN STREET
DENS A&B, SECOND FLOOR

1. Call to Order.

Chair Nichol called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

2. Roll Call.

Present: Susan Sanders, Cris Anderson (arrived 5:18 pm), Michael Castro, Mary Kruse, Lisa Macaione, Samantha Newman, Erica Johnson. Absent: none

Others present: Jenn McMahon, Lisa Stricker, Tara Strachan

3. Approval of the April 18, 2024, Equity & Inclusion Meeting Minutes.

A spelling correction was noted for Lisa Stricker's name.

No vote was taken to approve the minutes.

4. 2024-2045 Action Steps Update

Chair Nichol asked for an update on each of the subcommittees.

Johnson explained her process in drafting a Juneteenth proclamation.

Motion by Sanders, second by Newman to approve the Juneteenth proclamation.

Voice vote: Ayes: Nichol, Sanders, Anderson, Castro, Kruse, Macaione, Newman, Johnson. Nays: none. Absent: none. Nichol did not vote as Chair. **Motion carried.**

The commission discussed raising a flag for Juneteenth in the future. Lisa Stricker informed everyone that Juneteenth is a federal holiday, so the commission decided to amend the proclamation to include information specific to the City's history, referencing content from the St. Charles History Chronicle podcast that was mentioned by Macaione.

Motion by Kruse, second by Macaione to amend the previously approved Juneteenth proclamation with the suggested language.

Voice vote: Ayes: Nichol, Sanders, Anderson, Castro, Kruse, Macaione, Newman, Johnson. Nays: none. Absent: none. Nichol did not vote as Chair. **Motion Carried.**

Newman shared her process in updating the June as Pride Month proclamation. The commission discussed the flag raising for Pride Month at City Hall on June 3, 2024, at 5:45 p.m. It was noted that events should not be announced on social media until the City has done so first.

Sanders and Castro addressed the mental health subcommittee. The commission discussed building a partnership with the 708 Mental Health Board to determine if there are any biases or areas that are in need.

Castro discussed the biases subcommittee. He explained consideration should be given to initiating incentives for contractors who hire local labors and maintain diversity practices. It was decided by the commission to continue the conversation at the next meeting.

Anderson stated there were not any updates on the immigrant subcommittee.

Macaione acknowledged a lack of consistency in addressing the subcommittees and suggested verifying who serves on each committee and create standard titles for reference. Johnson will send out the Equity & Inclusion Commission 2024 Action Plan and commissioners will give an update at the next meeting.

Newman shared that she is learning more about the intellectual disability community. She also requested a target date for resources to be available on the City website. Chair Nichol suggested September as a feasible time frame.

Chair Nichol shared the current focus on the physical disability subcommittee is mobility, hearing, and sight. Goals include handicap accessible doors on all City buildings, fully functioning elevators at all times, and for the City to work with business owners to install double doors. Newman offered that the intellectual disability community has similar needs, in addition to audio cues for traffic lights.

5. Commission Membership Status

Chair Nichol shared that Johnson's and Nichol's terms have been renewed by the Mayor to serve 3 additional years. She noted the commission positions were due for election on May 1. It was suggested that this should be done in April next year. The vacant seat was mentioned and Stricker assured the commission that fulfilling the vacancy was in process.

Castro left meeting at 6:10 pm.

Motion by Macaione, second by Johnson to nominate Newman for commission Chair.

Voice vote: Ayes: Sanders, Anderson, Kruse, Macaione, Newman, Johnson. Nays: none. Absent: Castro. Nichol did not vote as Chair. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Newman, second by Macaione to nominate Sanders as Vice Chair.

Voice vote: Ayes: Sanders, Anderson, Kruse, Macaione, Newman, Johnson. Nays: none. Absent: Castro. Nichol did not vote as Chair. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Kruse, second by Johnson to nominate Macaione for Secretary.

Voice vote: Sanders, Anderson, Kruse, Macaione, Newman, Johnson. Nays: none. Absent: Castro. Nichol did not vote as Chair. **Motion carried.**

The commission thanked Nichol for her service as the first Chair of the Equity & Inclusion Commission for the City of St. Charles.

Macaione stated that the St. Charles History Museum is also seeking to record oral histories of the diverse population of the City, and that the commission should consider partnering with them. It was noted that Kruse could assist in forming a relationship with the St. Charles Public Library.

6. Public comment – none.

7. Adjourn.

Motion by Johnson, second by Macaione to adjourn the meeting at 6:19 pm.

Voice vote: Ayes: Sanders, Anderson, Kruse, Macaione, Newman, Johnson. Nays: none. Absent: Castro. Nichol did not vote as Chair. **Motion Carried.**

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