

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

**FROM A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MULTICULTURAL INCLUSION & ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

HELD AT 7:00 P.M. ON June 28, 2023

VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

A. CALL TO ORDER *meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Michele Gruet.*

B. STATEMENT REGARDING PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT - read by Michele Gruet.

The notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act have been satisfied with respect to this meeting of the Multicultural Inclusion & Accessibility Advisory Committee which is being held via Zoom video conferencing. This information, along with the public internet link and telephone call-in information was posted in the Municipal Building, and sent the official newspapers of the Township, the Verona-Cedar Grove Times and the Star Ledger and MyVeronaNJ.com, TAPinto and the Patch, the official online news source(s) of the Township, at least 48 hours preceding the start time of this meeting. A public comment period will be held in the order it is listed on the meeting agenda and instructions on how to comment will be provided at the appropriate time.

C. ROLL CALL

Present:

Rita Chevalier
Michele Gruet
Kathleen Francis
John Vajda
Andrew Dichiaro
Steven Neale
Christine McGrath
Kristen Dunleavy
Sarvenaz Singh
Carla Buglione

Absent:

Michelle O'Neill
Wesley Tahsir-Rodriguez
Maura Barrett
Diane DiGiuseppe
Emma DePaul
Verena Mikhael
Claudine Pasquale

Approval of May 24, 2023 Meeting Minutes:

Michele Gruet asks the Committee if there are any questions/changes to the May 24, 2023 Minutes. Minutes from the May 24, 2023 meeting are approved unanimously.

Public Comment:

None

Standing Meeting Items:

Update - Recreation Department

- Discussion was had around lower enrollment with swim this year for the disabled population which was run through a company called "Lifecycle."
- Research is being done regarding State Grants for recreation basketball to get coaches and equipment for an actual basketball program. This will also reduce the cost for participants.
- Discussion was had regarding the I Can Bike program which is a week long program
- Essex County is also bringing back the Special Olympics
- Santa is booked for Saturday, December 2nd and this will include 2 hours outside and 2 hours of quiet time in the library.

New Business:

1. Recap of Pride flag raising and celebration (June 3)
 - a. Major success with participation
2. Juneteenth flag raising (June 19)
 - a. Representation from the NAACP in Essex County
 - b. Mr. Jefferies on behalf of NAACP)chapter of Maplewood & South Orange
 - c. Best attendance ever doing it in the morning
3. Discussion of Disability Pride Month (July)
 - a. Update from subcommittee
 - i. Library will provide resources & books around disability
 1. July 12 day to celebrate
 2. Potential flag raising for 2024
4. Discussion of administrative responsibilities - Steve Neale's departure
 - a. Steve has made such an impact on this town and committee
 - b. Particularly with Diwali and Fair in The Square

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm. **The next meeting is scheduled for: August 23, 2023.**

Respectfully Submitted,

**Michelle O'Neill
Secretary, MIAAC**