

TOWNSHIP OF VERONA
THE MULTICULTURAL INCLUSION AND ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MIAAC)
MEETING MINUTES
August 23, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:12 PM via Zoom

Open public meeting statement was read.

ROLL CALL

Carla Buglione, Kathleen Francis, Michele Gruet, John Vajda, Kristin Dunleavy, Roxanna Tirado
Christine McGrath - Council Representative, Diane DiGiuseppe - Superintendent of School, Elisa
Northrop – Public Information Officer. Not present Wesley Tahsir-Rodriguez, Michelle O’Neill,
Rita Chevalier

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the June 28th meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

REPRESENTATIVE UPDATES

- Diane DiGiuseppe – Jodi Mollohand will be keynote speaker for convocation
- Christine McGrath - The Recreation Aide- Persons With Disabilities Programs job position is still open. Please promote. chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgclefindmkaj/https://www.veronanj.org/media/Employment%20Opportunities/2023/2023-08-11%20Rec%20Clerk%20ADA.pdf

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion:

- Fall Events. Falloween, discussion on whether MIAAC will support. This brought up a point that the MIAAC had started an events best practices guide to be used for Verona Township events like Falloween or Fair in the Square which would have recommendations like setting aside more Accessible Parking and creating quiet spaces (sensory integration spaces) for children.
- Events best practices guide could be sent to Town Manager (currently vacant space)
cc:ing Chief of Police

- MIAAC also developed a marketing plan for events that will be finalized and sent
- Hispanic Heritage Event – Tentative date is Saturday September 30th. It was decided to pivot the event to the Verona Community Center in the ballroom. The event will feature live music, dancing, arts & crafts for children and small food selection. We need to understand the budget which will come from town CFO as Town Manager position is vacant. Sub-committee members to finalize event and reach out to Library to coordinate what they are doing for HMM as well. Request to Elisa Northrop to post a holistic HMM events calendar on social media once ready.
- It was brought up that the committee should create a repository of event planning details to store for future use vs. starting planning from scratch every year.
- Diwali – Diwali will be week of November 12th. Town Council will be at an off-site from November 14-16. Sub-committee will work with Verona resident Toral Patel to plan.
- Accessibility sub-committee report: The sub-committee submitted their draft report for review. They will add photos indicated for revised version and for final review. There was conversation about whether this should be sent as a memo to the town or presented at a Town Council meeting. The latter is preferred as it would provide visibility of the report to town residents. This report was a result from a request from the town council for more concrete recommendations from MIAAC.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM