

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

HELD AT 7:00 P.M. ON MARCH 27, 2024

VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

A. CALL TO ORDER *meeting was called to order at 7:04 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:

Michele Gruet
Kathleen Francis
Kristen Dunleavy
Roxanna Tirado
Michael McMahon
John Vajda
Claudine Pascale – Verona Public Library
Diane DiGiuseppe - Superintendent of School
Christine McGrath - Council Representative

Absent:

Michelle O'Neill
Rita Chevalier
Wesley Tahsir-Rodriguez
Carla Buglione
David Rowbotham – Interim Director of Community Services & Recreation

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the February meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

REPRESENTATIVE UPDATES

- Diane DiGiuseppe – D.DiGiuseppe provided an update on the success of Inclusive Schools Week and also acknowledged C.H.I.L.D. for their efforts. D.DiGiuseppe also discussed the grants that will be awarded to teachers through C.H.I.L.D.
- Claudine Pascale – C.Pascale submitted a proposal for art therapy sessions for Older Americans Month. Art sessions are scheduled for May 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd.
- Michale McMahon – Provided updates on the groundbreaking ceremony held for the inclusive and adaptive playground. The playground, which will include an area for adults, as well, should be completed in the summer of 2024.

NEW BUSINESS

- Women’s History Month: Committee recognized success of the Women’s History Month Panel and thanked the sub-committee and moderators for their excellent job with the event and moderating.
- Older Americans Event: Updates were given about the Older Americans event that will be sponsored by the library. Discussions were had on communication efforts and support for seniors.
- June Pride Flag Raising Event: Event details and logistics were discussed, including obtaining potential sponsors. The tentative date for the event will be June 8th. There was concern raised regarding this being the same date as the Montclair Pride Festival, however the times do not appear to be conflicting.
- Sustainable Verona: Committee discussed the goal for Verona to receive a silver certification in sustainability efforts. The community survey, report deadlines, and responsibilities were also discussed.
- Everett Field Proposal: Committee discussed the proposal that was resubmitted that included the cost of an ADA compliant bathroom. Response is expected in summer and the vote will be in the Fall of 2024.

- Community Updates: Kickplates were installed in the Community Recreation Center.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.