

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

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

VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

A. CALL TO ORDER *meeting was called to order at 7:10 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
Wesley Tahsir-Rodriguez
Roxanna Tirado
Michelle O'Neill
Kathleen Francis
Carla Buglione
Kristen Dunleavy
Rita Chevalier
AJ Kiernan
Jenna Ingham - Verona Public Library
Michael McMahon - Verona Recreation

Absent:

John Vajda
Jenna Ingham - Verona Public Library
Michael McMahon - Verona Recreation
Diane DiGiuseppe - Superintendent of School
Christine McGrath - Council Representative

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the April and May Meetings were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Shupert Lesperance attended the meeting but had no comment. He was welcomed by the committee.

REPRESENTATIVE UPDATES

- June Pride Event: M.Gruet discussed the success of the June Pride Event and the positive feedback she received from the community. The event was well attended. M.Gruet thanked MIAAC members, J.Vajda, W.Tahsir-Rodriguez, C.Buglione, and R.Tirado. M.Gruet also expressed appreciation to all the town council in attendance, Jack McVoy, Cynthia Holland, Alex Roman, and C.McGrath. Also in attendance were Senator Kristen Corrado and Christopher Defillipis. E.Northrope was thanked by M.Gruet as was the VHS jazz choir, who helped make the event special. A.J.Kiernan was in attendance and thanked the committee members and all others involved for their efforts in making the event a great day for the community.

NEW BUSINESS

- Year End Wrap Up: M.Gruet stated that the goal of the meeting was the year end wrap up discussion as MIAAC's year runs July 1st though June 30th. Two committee members stepped down from the board, K.Dunleavy and C.Buglione. Both received praise from M.Gruet and all members of MIAAC as they both made a great impact on the community while serving on the committee. Both K.Dunleavy and C.Buglione are hopeful to volunteer with MIAAC in the future. M.Gruet also reminded the committee of her step down from the role as Chair. M.Gruet was also thanked by the committee members for the excellent job she has done as the first Chair of the committee. M.Gruet stated that she looks forward to continuing to serve as a committee member of MIAAC. M.Gruet made a motion to nominate R.Tirado as the next chair and this motion was passed unanimously. M.O'Neill will continue to serve as Secretary, with assistance from other MIAAC members where needed.
- National Disability Month: K.Dunleavy gave an update on the acknowledgement of National Disability Month in July. There will be a digital push with one message going out per week. This includes the disability pride flag and blurbs for week 1, a highlighting of the library book display for week 2, pool accessibility information for week 3, and the accessible playground updates for week 4.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm.