

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

HELD AT 7:00 P.M. ON JULY 24, 2024

VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

A. CALL TO ORDER *meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Roxanna Tirado.*

B. STATEMENT REGARDING PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT - read by Roxanna Tirado.

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:

Roxanna Tirado

Michele Gruet

Wesley Tahsir-Rodriguez

Michelle O'Neill

AJ Kiernan

John Vajda

Christine McGrath - Council Representative

Absent:

Kathleen Francis

Rita Chevalier

Michael McMahon - Verona Recreation

Jenna Ingham - Verona Public Library

Michael McMahon - Verona Recreation

Diane DiGiuseppe - Superintendent of School

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the June 27th Meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

REPRESENTATIVE UPDATES

- Recreation Update: R.Tirado provided the recreation update on behalf of M.McMahon. The adaptive playground is moving on track and the equipment is being delivered later this summer. The ADA compliant modular lab is being created, as well. C.McGrath provided an update on the tennis courts renovation that will include pickle ball. C.McGrath has asked that ADA accessibility be kept in mind and teams are working with the designer on this piece. There will be separate boundaries between the tennis courts and pickle ball courts that need to consider wheelchair accessibility.
- C.McGrath: C.McGrath thanked M.Gruet for all of her work leading MIAAC since the committees inception. C.McGrath also expressed appreciation for R.Tirado taking on the role as chair. C.McGrath welcomed Tovah, new committee member who was unable to attend. C.McGrath also asked the committee members to keep in mind any community member that would like to join MIAAC as MIAAC is still short one member. C.McGrath stated that all are welcome to join but stated that it would be beneficial to have someone that can weigh in on the inclusivity piece regarding physical disabilities, from life experiences. C.McGrath stated that there were some changes that the town will be voting on regarding some non-material changes to clarifying who votes and who does not, when it comes to volunteers versus town representatives. Another minor change was related to the quorum size. These will be voted on at the meeting on August 5th. McGrath also commented on the success of the Pride event and thanked MIAAC members, specifically M.Gruet and AJ Kiernan, for all of their work to make the event a great one. C.McGrath stated she received positive feedback from the community and stated that the pride event embodied the spirit of Verona.

NEW BUSINESS

- National Disability Month: R.Tirado provided an update on National Disability Month and the efforts that former MIAAC member, K.Dunleavy, made to ensure that this month was recognized with important information on accessibility. A tip on the pool went out and there was a member of the community who reached out with feedback on the pool from an accessibility perspective. C.McGrath has attempted to do a gentle outreach to this individual.

- Hispanic Heritage Month: R.Tirado provided an update from the subcommittee, that consists of W.Tahsir-Rodriguez, R.Chevalier, and R.Tirado. R.Tirado stated that all ideas are welcome and can be sent to the subcommittee. R.Tirado stated that she is working collaboratively with the Verona Public Library on this monthly celebration, as well.
- Diwali: R.Tirado mentioned the Diwali event as Diwali falls on October 31st and November 1st. R.Tirado stated that there is a subcommittee in place. Toral Patel, community member, has coordinated this event in the past and will continue to do so this year. The time and date is TBD.
- Other Q4 Events: R.Tirado reminded the committee of the google sign up forms for the subcommittees. Other events in Q4 include Hanukkah and Fair in the Square. Updates to be provided on these events at future meetings.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Meeting was adjourned at 7:27pm.