



**HERNDON HERNDON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 15, 2024**

1. Call to Order

Chair Dhakal called the August 15, 2024, Herndon Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee regular meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. in the Town of Herndon Council Chambers Building, 765 Lynn Street, Herndon, Virginia. In attendance were: Committee Members Yelena Barth, Lorena Brady, Triston Chase O'Savio, Alex Rodriguez, Eileen Villegas, Vice Chair Soma Ramesh, and Chair Pradip Dhakal. Committee Member Alex Rodriguez arrived at 8:23 p.m. Committee Members Andrew Lacher, Arati Sigdel, and Sabrina Hossain were absent.

Councilmember Donielle Scherff was present.

Staff present during the meeting: Kirstyn Jovanovich, Acting Deputy Town Manager; Lesa Yeatts, Town Attorney; Lisa Gilleran, Director of Community Development; and Aaron Zoellick, Clerk of Boards and Commissions.

Chair Dhakal determined there was a quorum of six members present.

2. Comments

a. Comments from the Staff Members

Ms. Gilleran provided comments regarding the Town's rebranding effort and encouraged committee members and community members to participate in the available survey.

b. Comments from the Committee Members

Chair Dhakal provided comments regarding the Town's rebranding effort and encouraged committee members and community members to complete the survey.

3. Approval of Minutes

a. February 15, 2024, HDEIC Meeting Minutes

Committee Member Barth motioned to approve the February 15, 2024, Herndon Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee regular meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Vice Chair Ramesh. The question was called on the motion, which was approved by a 6 - 0 roll call vote. Committee Members Barth, Brady, O'Savio, Villegas, Vice Chair Ramesh, and Chair Dhakal voted "Aye."

4. General

a. Empowerment Discussion with Councilmember Scherff

Chair Dhakal recognized Councilmember Scherff to lead a discussion on empowerment.

Councilmember Scherff opened the discussion and asked committee members what they needed to accomplish their tasks.

There was discussion among Councilmember Scherff, the HDEIC, and staff on this item including: (1) obtaining data regarding demographics, food security, and impacts of redevelopment, (2) not being able to reschedule HDEIC meetings; (3) the need for conversations with community members; (4) criminal justice reform; (5) HDEIC hosting conversations with community members; (6) differences in levels of trash service provided by the Department of Public Works; (7) benefits of diverse community events; (8) Friday Night Live and efforts to make the event more diverse or add a second event; and (9) the relationship between the Town of Herndon and the Dulles Chamber of Commerce.

Committee Member O'Savio stated that he wanted to see police data. Ms. Jovanovich stated that community policing data is reported to the Virginia State Police and is publicly accessible through the town's website.

Councilmember Scherff encouraged the committee members to come back with recommendations on outreach.

Chair Dhakal stated that if committee members have ideas they would like to discuss at an HDEIC meeting, they can contact staff at least two weeks before the meeting to get the item on the agenda.

b. HDEIC Recommendations - Status Update

Chair Dhakal recognized Ms. Jovanovich for a status update on HDEIC recommendations.

Ms. Jovanovich delivered a presentation dated August 15, 2024, which is on file with the Department of Community Development. Ms. Jovanovich stated that if

committee members are aware of a person or group that could assist with developing a skating program, they can send the contact information to town staff.

Chair Dhakal commented on the mission statement for the HDEIC.

[Note: the following topics below were discussed by the HDEIC and are listed in the order of the published meeting agenda].

c. Herndon Diversity Policy Recommendation - Status Update

Chair Dhakal recognized Ms. Jovanovich for a status update on Herndon diversity policy recommendations.

Ms. Jovanovich delivered a presentation dated August 15, 2024, which is on file with the Department of Community Development. Ms. Jovanovich stated that staff is seeking HDEIC's input on developing an inclusivity statement or policy as part of the Town's Strategic Plan.

There was a discussion among the HDEIC and staff on this item, including: (1) HOA's control of housing; (2) the Herndon Festival; (3) being intentional about equity; (4) statements having little weight; (5) a policy that works towards results and accountability being a long-term solution; and (6) staff's concern about developing a policy that would require a lot of resources.

Chair Dhakal recommended continuing this discussion at the HDEIC's next meeting.

d. Town Service and Program Delivery

Chair Dhakal recognized Ms. Jovanovich for a report on Town service and program delivery. Ms. Jovanovich delivered a presentation dated August 15, 2024, which is on file with the Department of Community Development. Ms. Jovanovich suggested that the committee could help Town Council identify where gaps exist that the Town could address. Staff is looking for assistance in identifying mechanisms for public input with greater representation.

Committee Member Rodriguez arrived at 8:23 p.m.

Ms. Gilleran stated that staff is in the process of reviewing two multi-family projects.

Ms. Gilleran stated that the state requires that the county must provide health and human services.

There was discussion among the HDEIC, Councilmember Scherff, and staff on this item, including: (1) whether the Town tries to reschedule events for the

following year after one event is held; (2) the Town's intention in giving money to organizations to get started and develop partnerships; (3) meetings for parents at schools as a place to speak with people that just moved to town and who may not feel included; and, (4) the Town's table at back-to-school event.

e. 660 Spring Street Historic Marker

Chair Dhakal recognized Ms. Gilleran for an update on the 660 Spring Street historic marker.

Ms. Gilleran sought the HDEIC's input on the proposed historic marker. Ms. Gilleran stated that HDEIC members should send any suggested changes to Collin Okoniewski.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, and without objection, the August 15, 2024, Herndon Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee regular meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.



Collin J. Okoniewski
Planning Operations Manager

Minutes approved by Herndon Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee :
November 14, 2024