

**CITY OF La PORTE  
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
May 26, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.**

**Call to Order**

A Meeting of the City of La Porte Diversity and Inclusion Committee was called to order by Chair Marvin McCoy at 5:12 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Roll Call**

Present: Chair Marvin McCoy, Secretary Selah Brooks, Member Frank Zolvinski, Member Jeff Batchelor, City Councilman Tim Franke, and Human Resource Director Andrea Smith

Absent: Members Brenda Eguizabal, Elissa Affeld, and City Attorney Nick Otis  
(all excused absences)

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

There were none.

**Claims**

No claims to report.

**Public Comment**

None

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

Board Members in attendance, along with Councilman Franke and HR Director Smith, each had the opportunity to introduce themselves to the Andrea who took over for Jennifer Noll as the City of La Porte HR Director.

Andrea presented information to Board Members for the upcoming Indiana Chamber Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Summit which will be held on October 4, 2022, in Indianapolis.

Andrea will be attending the Indiana SHRM (Society for Human Resource Management) Conference at the end of August in Indianapolis. This year there are many Diversity and Inclusion offerings that Andrea will be attending.

Andrea spoke with Jessica Bruder, Communications Director for the City of La Porte. Jessica would like to attend an upcoming Committee Meeting to discuss and assist the group in promoting the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Andrea will check with Jessica for her availability.

**Unfinished Business**

Marvin will try and contact Kyleigh Cramer who is the new Public Outreach and Education Manager for the Indiana Civil Rights Commission. Marvin will extend an invitation to Kyleigh to attend and speak at one of the Committee's Diversity and Inclusion Meetings.

Jeff Batchelor and Andrea mentioned that the City of La Porte's Community Block Grant (CDBG) Director, Mary Anne Richards is very active in trying to improve fair housing for the quality of life for low and moderate-income La Porte residents. CDBG programs support community development activities to build strong communities.

**Other Business**

Andrea reminded Committee Members that the next Diversity and Inclusion Meeting is scheduled at 5:00 pm, on June 23, 2022, in the Council Chambers.

**Comments from Committee Members**

Marvin reflected on and spoke passionately to Committee Members regarding the latest school shooting in Uvalde, Texas. The job of a school resource officer has changed, and he emphasized the importance of properly training the officers for an active shooter situation.

Selah Brooks would like to the Committee to consider adding a Member on the Committee from the school system. Selah relayed how important education is and the struggles he had. There is a School in Portage, Indiana who works with students who have been expelled and the program and students are flourishing.


Working with the Catholic Diocese, Frank Zolvinski spoke about the role they could play in providing assistance and resources for families who need it.

Councilman Franke attended a mental health informational group meeting which discussed the mental health gaps and issues throughout the County. Councilman Franke thought it may be beneficial to have someone from the Committee attend the next meeting and will gather more information.

**Adjournment**

At 6:13 pm, there being no other questions or comments, Frank made a Motion to adjourn the Meeting, which was seconded by Selah. The Motion unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrea Smith  
Human Resource Director, City of La Porte

Approved: June 23, 2022