

CITY OF EDMONDS DIVERSITY COMMISSION July 6, 2016

The Diversity Commission meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Mario Brown at 220 Railroad Avenue, Edmonds.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

George Basioli
Diana White
Gayle Ketzler
Patricia Valle
Tung Bui
Mario Brown – Chair (arrived at 6:38)
Adam Khan
Councilmember Adrienne Fraley-Monillas,
Ex officio

Ed Dorame – Vice Chair
Maria Montalvo

STAFF PRESENT

Patrick Doherty, *ED/CS Director*
Cindi Cruz, *ED/CS Program Coordinator*
Misha Carter, *Incoming Diversity Commission Coordinator*
Michele Rastovich, *Outgoing Diversity Commission Coordinator*
Frances Chapin, *Arts & Culture Manager*
Edmonds Arts Commission representatives

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

1. **Roll Call:** Call to order at 6:07 p.m.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as submitted by consensus.
3. **Approval of Meeting Summary of June 1, 2016:** By consensus, as amended, summary minutes are approved.
4. **Public Comment:** No comment
5. **Report from City:**
 - Introduction of Misha Carter. Misha is the new Diversity Commission Coordinator and she is going to take Michele's place for the remainder of the year. She gave a little info about herself. She is local in Edmonds. Commission thanked Michele for her guidance during this initial startup of the Commission.
 - Patrick explained the video he had placed on FB by John Cena.
 - Patrick passed out copy of FB post that was on the Edmonds Downtown Alliance Ed! Facebook site regarding putting out chairs on sidewalk for 4th of July parade. George brought up similar situation at Starbucks where chairs and tables can block the sidewalk. Adrienne asked that Shane Hope, Development Services Director, be contacted for sidewalk blockage.
6. **Edmonds Arts Commission:** Frances Chapin represented the Edmonds Arts Commission (EAC) and discussed the role of the arts related to diversity in Edmonds. She gave a brief overview of the EAC and what they do. EAC started in 1975. The community and City has historically been supportive of arts in the community. Strong arts organizations including the

Arts Festival and Arts Festival Foundation have funded many of the art installations on the waterfront and throughout City. Write on the Sound (WOTS), the annual writer's conference, is a major component of filling a need that draws attendees from all over the state and country. The EAC is a hands-on commission, staffed by Frances and an assistant. Concerts at City Park and Hazel Miller Plaza on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sundays are some of the yearly events created by the EAC. Visual arts are included – rotating exhibits, supporting regional artists to provide opportunities for exhibits. Cultural planning is the other major portion of this division of the Parks & Recreation Department. The Community Cultural Plan is reviewed and updated every 7 years. This is a true community plan by asking what does the community want to have related to art, heritage, and involves a broad group of community volunteers including members of the Korean and Native American communities, and others. Common goals are making sure that the community desires are not overlooked regarding diversity and cultural arts. “On the Fence” project is an example of another EAC project and includes unique artwork on three fences in the City. Another example is the International District project (artwork and lighting) on Highway 99 by Ranch 99. Cascadia Art Museum, created and supported through private efforts is a welcome, new asset to the Edmonds community. The Sister City Commission has provided a resource for communication and culture from Hekinan, the City's Japanese Sister City. Cultural events and sharing of different cuisines provides a great example of diverse cultures. The Edmonds Center for the Arts (ECA) has provided many culturally diverse events since they started 10 years ago. There will be a birthday event at the ECA on July 30, 2016. The EAC looks forward to future collaborations with the Diversity Commission. Diana mentioned a project on Native American endeavors with school district, historical museum and the Tulalip tribe.

7. **Community Outreach:** Parade debrief by Patrick who displayed banner that was in 4th of July parade, there were approximately 50 participants, Edmonds Woodway high school group, Methodist church, Latino group. Adrienne drove car filled with kids with special needs. Very positively received, applause, cheers, diversity in the crowd, many ethnic groups marching, good visibility, thank you to Tung, great participation, come back next year with new ideas.
8. **Community Outreach:** Commission information cards – have not worked on them, got some printing info, next step meeting with Patrick, Mario, and Gayle.
9. **Community Outreach:** Work Plan Update
 - Refugee and Immigrant Forum Update – Van Dinh Kuno has not been able to determine 3-4 dates, Michele will continue to work on this event. Separate community meeting, Tung's example of South Dakota story, can talk about sponsored families and how they have progressed. Demonstrate success stories.
 - Workgroups – groups make strong partnerships, Misha and Patrick will coordinate a meeting for this project. Refer to spreadsheet. Please provide feedback on spreadsheet to Patrick and Misha. Staff will coordinate meetings for commission to come to. Including schools that are not in Edmonds boundaries – overlap to other schools in other cities needs to include.
 - Comment on presentation: Diversity commission job to get people to go to events and educate. Message needs to be educational, clear and concise. Relationship-building is very important with other government organizations. Happy to see this kind of conversation finally happening at the Commission meeting. Adam asked to be assigned to Community Forum sub-committee.
 - Adrienne discussed coal and oil train resolution that was passed by City Council.

10. **Report to City Council:** Important to get information to City Council. Not on agenda. Will probably be in August, need to meet with commission volunteers for presentation. Meet to discuss structure of presentation with commission. Patrick will call meeting to discuss.
11. **Community Updates:**
12. **Adjourn: 7:50 PM – Next regular meeting: August 3, 2016, 6 PM**

