

Meeting Notes for August 3, 2017

## Edmonds Diversity Commission

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Call to order at 6:07

Commissioners Present:

Ed Dorame – Vice-Chair

Diana White

Gayle Ketzell

Mario Brown – Chair

Maria Montalvo

Adam Khan

Adrienne Fraley-Monillas, *ex officio*

Commissioners Absent:

George Basioli

Tung Bui

Pat Valle

Staff Present:

Patrick Doherty, Community Services & Economic Development Director

Misha Carter, Diversity Commission Coordinator

Approval of agenda by consensus

Approval of July Meeting summary by consensus.

Public Comment:

Mayor Earling was present and commented:

- He enjoys seeing what goes on in different meetings including the Diversity Commission
- He is delighted to hear positive comments regarding the Commission.
- He has noticed how much the diversity of the Edmonds population has changed in the past 12 years
- He sees an amazing dynamic in town recently, with much more activity, more visitors, more engagement and involvement

Report from City:

- Reminder regarding Commissioners' bio for the Diversity Commission webpage --about a paragraph long.
- Required training for Open Public Meetings Act needs to be taken if not already done
- Survey information report 28% responses and about 400 people went to website to reply

Community Outreach

- Reach out to Michele Rastovich regarding speaker for Refugee and Immigrant forum. There was discussion about how this event would unfold. Who are we inviting? Where would it be held? How would we get the word out? Adam suggested that success stories, along with stories of struggle, be included. The event should be newsworthy and noteworthy. Misha and City staff will work with Michele to try to nail this down for as soon as possible, likely mid-September at this point.
- Maria and Patrick mentioned that the editor of the Edmonds Beacon is seeking a Diversity Commission column for
  - Maria agreed to draft column for Mario's and Ed's review/sign-off
  - The first column might be related to the importance of words/vocabulary, perhaps entitled "Words Matter"
  - It was agreed that the column would be quarterly
- World Café launch was discussed:
  - What questions to ask at Café?
  - What purpose and format would be?
  - Commission would like to have this event take place in November if possible
  - Planning sub-group for Café is Mario, Diana, Adam, Gayle
- Diana mentioned having (a) session(s) where a trainer/facilitator/speaker can come in and speak with Commissioners on various subjects related to the mission of the Commission, leading to further discussion and interaction among Commissioners. There was continued discussion about the desire for Commissioners to get to know each other more. If off-line, person-to-person meetings are not feasible, perhaps a facilitated group discussion/interaction, inspired by a speaker/trainer, could lead to more of this. The thought is that this would be billed as "professional development." Are there funds for this? Yes, the Commission's budget can allow for this, and there are still funds available. It was decided that this could take place at the October meeting.
- Youth Forum/Event moved to early months (February?) of 2017
  - What is goal for youth event? – engagement and empower youth
  - Should be something that can occur after school hours
  - Can be something involvings schools broader than Edmonds city limits but within Edmonds School District
  - Discussed having a student on the Commission
  - Youth event should be fun for students
  - Discussed inviting Dr. Au from Bothell who has a Hip-Hop class at UWBothell or other guest speaker – Diana is going to look into this further
  - Discussed having an event that the youth help plan
  - Planning subgroup for the Youth Forum/Event is Diana, George and Ed
- Commissioners discussed the Diversity Commission information card and would like to get that done ASAP. The subgroup, consisting of Gayle, Mario and Patrick, will meet soon to nail down the verbiage for the card and discuss production
- Suggestion for future meetings is to consider extending hours.
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- Suggestion for next meeting agenda is to discuss the professional development session intended for the October meeting and its funding

Next meeting will be September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 6pm at the Senior Center.