



**MINUTES OF THE
DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**
Oakton Community Center
4701 Oakton Street, Skokie, IL 60076
Tuesday, February 13, 2018 – 7:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

Board Members Present: Commissioner/Chair Maureen Yanes
Commissioner Khemarey Khoenun

Staff Present: Assistant Superintendent of Recreation Jon Marquardt
Executive Administrative Assistant Ann Perez
Child Care Manager Fouzia Khan

Public Present: Joseph Tamraz
Rosamin Bhanpuri
Pramod Shah
Michael Delanois
Jill Murphy
Jerry Clarito
Catherine Counard
Anwar Had

CALL TO ORDER

Advisory Committee Chairman Maureen Yanes called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Commissioner Yanes thanked everyone for attending. There were a few new attendees and Commissioner Yanes asked them to introduce themselves.

BOARD UPDATES

Commissioner Yanes reported that at the January Park Board of Commissioners meeting the Board approved the Diversity Advisory Committee applications for Jerry Clarito, Nadeem Patwa and Sharon Carey. Commissioner Yanes said Michael Delanois has submitted an application for the committee for Board approval. Commissioner Yanes explained the Board policy regarding membership on the Diversity Advisory Committee. There can be eight members so there are a few more openings and Commissioner Yanes asked those interested in serving to apply online.

COMMENTS AND INPUT

There were no comments.

NETWORKING WITH OTHER DIVERSITY GROUPS AND AGENCIES

Commissioner Yanes said there was discussion at the last meeting about the many different community organizations in Skokie. Commissioner Yanes said she thought it would be a good idea if members of the Diversity Advisory Committee be designated to attend some of the other organization meetings. It was suggested that a list be compiled of the different organizations and contacts so committee members can attend and promote the Diversity Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Khoeun said there is a wealth of knowledge and resources in the committee and suggested creating a shared Google document with contact information of other organizations.

Ms. Bhanpuri said a way to involve community members to participate in programs and events is to give them ownership in the event. If they are involved in the planning and preparation it will bring more participation from the community.

Dr. Catherine Counard suggested speaking with the Village of Skokie Marketing Director to add future meetings in the Village of Skokie newsletter.

Commissioner Yanes recommended when talking about diversity to look at similarities and accentuate the positive. There are a lot of similarities among different cultures.

Rosamin Bhanpuri said a movie about arranged marriages in the Muslim and Orthodox communities will be shown at the Lincolnwood Public Library on February 18th followed by a group discussion. Ms. Bhanpuri said it is one of the movies that were chosen for the Coming Together in Skokie program. Ms. Bhanpuri distributed some Coming Together in Skokie flyers and program books. Ms. Khan discussed arranged marriages in the Indian community.

UPCOMING EVENTS TO DISCUSS

Commissioner Yanes said the Holi event celebration was discussed at the November 29th meeting. Mr. Marquardt said that the Festival of Cultures Committee approved the Holi event for Saturday at Festival of Cultures on May 19 from 6 – 7 p.m. The event will take place near the stage. The Holi event celebrates the rite of spring in the Hindu community. The night before Holi, evil is burned out followed by a celebration of bright colors. Jon said the committee is working out the details with potential sponsors.

Commissioner Yanes said there is an African Drum program at the District's Tuesday Family Festival on July 17.

Mr. Marquardt read a statement sent from Nancy Kim Phillips of the Skokie Public Library. Ms. Phillips said here is a monthly discussion series at the Skokie Library for those looking at issues of diversity and equity. It's called "Let's Talk at Lunch" and is held the third Tuesday every other month from noon – 1:00 p.m. in the Book Discussion Room. There is a trained facilitator from the YWCA who guides participants in talking through issues of racism and equity. Everyone is welcome; there is no registration. The next discussion is scheduled for Tuesday, February 20.

Mr. Marquardt said District name tags with the second languages staff speak have been distributed to staff. Mr. Clarito asked about welcome signs. Mr. Marquardt said he is

researching translation service companies. The **Whats app** and **Language Line** were suggested for translation assistance.

Commissioner Khoeun mentioned the Meet and Greet at Emily Oaks Nature Center scheduled for Sunday, April 29th from 3 – 5 p.m. It is an opportunity for the community to meet the Park Board and introduce them to District facilities and programming.

Ms. Khan asked about the main goal of Diversity Advisory Committee. Commissioner Yanes responded to make people more comfortable coming to District facilities and programs and recognizing their differences and celebrate them. Commissioner Yanes asked if anyone has ideas for programming to email her.

Dr. Counard said she would like to make a presentation to the committee on the South Asian Healthy Lifestyle Initiative.

The next meeting of the Diversity Advisory Committee will be held in April with a date to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Maureen Yanes adjourned the meeting at 8:13 pm.

Maureen Yanes, Commissioner

John Ohrlund, Executive Director

Vision Statement

The Skokie Park District envisions a community where all of its residents enjoy a high quality of life through leisure time pursuits, beautiful open spaces, and first rate facilities.

Mission Statement

The Skokie Park District will realize its vision through teamwork, community partnerships, sound fiscal management, and creativity in every area of its operation.

Core Values

The Skokie Park District will fulfill its mission through:

- Commitment ● Integrity ● Innovation ● Service ● Openness ● Environmental Stewardship