



**MINUTES OF THE  
DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**  
Weber Leisure Center  
9300 Weber Place, Skokie, IL 60076  
**Tuesday, January 8, 2019 – 6:30 P.M.**

**ATTENDANCE AT MEETING**

Board Members Present: Commissioner/Chair Maureen Yanes  
President Susan Aberman  
Vice President Mike Reid

Committee Members Present: Sharon Carey  
Michael Delanois

Staff Present: Executive Director John Ohrlund  
Assistant Superintendent of Recreation Jon Marquardt  
Office Manager Park Services Dima Kirland

Public Present: Sign In Sheet on File

**CALL TO ORDER**

Diversity Advisory Committee Chair Maureen Yanes called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Yanes thanked everyone for attending. Commissioner Yanes asked all attendees to introduce themselves.

**PRESENTATION: COMMUNITY SCHOOLS FORMAT AND STRUCTURE FOR  
ENGAGING FAMILIES AND THE COMMUNITY**

Sarah Rankin, Allison Kiboi, Subia Javed and Les Andrews representing School District 69 presented a program on the community schools framework.

Family & Community Engagement:

- The focus is to involve the whole family, not just the child
- Overall awareness of resources and opportunities for families
- Equity for everyone, not just the poor kids
- Work together collectively to fill the gaps
- Hyper local
- Breaking down barriers

The history of community schools was discussed. The three major focus areas are family and community engagement, expanded learning opportunities and health and wellness. In 2017-18, District 69 hired a community schools resource coordinator. In a

partnership with EEL Parent Center, the school is able to host English Language classes for parents. It was a success because parents were more comfortable at their neighborhood school.

There are three tiers in the family and community engagement framework:

- Tier 1: Relationship building
- Tier 2: Participation and involvement
- Tier 3: Engagement/Leadership

Different stakeholders are involved and every voice matters. Relationship building is the key, without that, the family involvement and community engagement wouldn't exist.

Ms. Javed discussed how she became an involved parent of school aged children and has since become the community family liaison.

Mr. Andrews, another parent talked about his experience when he first got involved and how he immediately felt as a valued member. Parents need to be involved more, every voice matters. It presents a great level of community engagement and so many opportunities.

Lastly District 69 Superintendent Margaret Clausen thanked the Skokie Park District for their partnership in the S.P.A.C.E. program. Angie Sakellaris, School Age Supervisor from the Park District is helping to expand the S.P.A.C.E. program.

### **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Mr. Lee commented on how great it is to have different committees and initiatives but said he still feels a little frustration with reaching out to people. District 69 staff agreed that there are still barriers and difficulties getting information out effectively. It is however easier to contact the families through the students. Mr. Lee said a diversity committee is somewhat unique and congratulated the Skokie Park District for their initiative.

Ms. Desai said that it is important to get families in the right mindset and let them know that their input is important and crucial.

Meet people where they are, go to the people you are trying to reach.

Everyone agrees that the biggest challenge is reaching out to everyone and meeting with people where they are at.

Two students from Niles North expressed they were happy to be invited and to be part of the process.

### **BLACK HISTORY MONTH/MLK**

Ms. Yanes and Mr. Marquardt commented on the upcoming Skokie Library programs to celebrate black history month.

Mr. Marquardt has reached out to school districts to determine their interest level including Jason Foster of Niles North. Mr. Marquardt is waiting on responses. One idea is to have a conversation about race, have a speaker to lead the discussion. The group

can also discuss movies, books, just have an open dialogue in an intimate setting at the Skokie Heritage Museum.

### **COMING TOGETHER IN SKOKIE POLISH SPEAKER - UPDATE**

Mrs. Maria Monastero Bueno reported that the Coming Together kickoff is Sunday, January 27 at Nilus West High School at 1:00 p.m. Mrs. Bueno encouraged everyone to attend. There will be speakers, entertainment and food. The emcee will be ABC 7 Chicago anchor Alan Krashesky and the speaker will be author William Kowalski. The Coming Together booklet which has detailed information about the upcoming events was distributed.

Ms. Yanes said that the District is sponsoring a Polish history speaker on Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at Emily Oaks Nature Center as part of Coming Together.

### **DAY OF THE DEAD**

Mr. Marquardt reported he met with Brian Williams from Skokie United to get contacts of potential organizers of the event.

### **PRIDE EVENT**

Mr. Marquardt is working with a number of people on a possible pride event.

### **HOLI CELEBRATION**

Ms. Desai said for 2019 Holi celebration will be bigger and better. There will be food vendors and artisans and workshops for the kids and it will be a nice family event. The date and location are still to be determined.

### **IDEAS FOR CONSIDERATION**

Potluck ideas were discussed.

### **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Ms. Yanes said that a family camp has been suggested.

### **SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING**

May 7, 2019, 6:30 PM. Location to be determined.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Maureen Yanes adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

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Maureen Yanes, Commissioner

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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