



**MINUTES OF THE
DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**
Oakton Community Center
4701 Oakton Street, Skokie, IL 60076
Tuesday, November 27, 2018 – 6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

Board Members Present: Commissioner/Chair Maureen Yanes

Committee Members Present: Pramod Shah
Jerry Clarito

Staff Present: Executive Director John Ohrlund
Assistant Superintendent of Recreation Jon Marquardt
Executive Administrative Assistant Ann Perez

Public Present: Rosamin Bhaupuri
Frances Roehm
Zohrab Mirza
Jill Murphy
Jelly R. Carandang
Dr. Swapna Dave
Allie Lichteman

CALL TO ORDER

Diversity Advisory Committee Chair Maureen Yanes called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm. followed by the pledge of allegiance. Commissioner Yanes thanked everyone for attending. There were a few new attendees and Commissioner Yanes asked all attendees to introduce themselves.

COMING TOGETHER IN SKOKIE AND NILES TOWNSHIP

Rosamin Bhaupuri distributed some promotional material for the Coming Together in Skokie and Niles Township program to celebrate Polish American Culture. Coming Together is a program with Skokie, Morton Grove, Lincolnwood, Niles and Niles Township cooperating together to celebrate different cultures. Over 60 programs will be available with different interests for everyone for a period of ten weeks. Events are planned, books are read and discussed, movies are shown and speakers lecture about the history and culture of the selected group. This is the tenth year for the event, having previously celebrated the Assyrian, Latino American, Chinese, Muslim American,

Korean, Filipino and Indian cultures. One year “Voices of Race” featured racism concerns in the community.

Ms. Bhaupuri asked if there was any interest in a Polish history and culture speaker at a future committee meeting. The committee was very receptive to the idea. Ms. Bhaupuri will attempt to secure a speaker for March 5 or March 14. Once finalized the District will promote the meeting.

PRESENTATION: SOUTH ASIAN HEALTHY LIFESTYLE INITIATIVE (SAHELI)

Research Project Manager Dr. Swapna Dave and Community Health Specialist Zohrab Mirza presented the South Asian Healthy Lifestyle Initiative (SAHELI). The research study is working to reduce heart disease and diabetes risk in the South Asian community. South Asians are at a greater risk of death from cardiovascular disease compared to other racial/ethnic groups. The study is looking for individuals ages 18-65 who have not had a heart attack or stroke and live in the Chicago area. Dr. Dave and Mr. Mirza asked the committee to reach out to the South Asian community to invite them to join the research study. Chairman Yanes noted a “Health and Wellness for the Filipino Community” event held at the District in October 2016 focusing on very high cardiac issues within that community, and suggested a similar event for the South Asian community. Chairman Yanes thanked Dr. Dave and Mr. Mirza for the informative presentation.

BOARD UPDATES

STATUS OF THE DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FACEBOOK PAGE

The Facebook page is active. Feel free to visit Facebook Skokie Park District Diversity Advisory Committee.

HOLI CELEBRATION

Chairman Yanes said the Holi celebration is being planned for Skokie Sports Park East for next July or August. Director Ohrlund, Mr. Marquardt, Ms. Tuft, Minal Desai and Susan Patel met to discuss the planning of the Holi event a few weeks ago. Ms. Desai and Ms. Patel are forming a private group that will organize, run and fund the event. They need to develop a budget, solicit vendors, entertainment, volunteers and any other event logistics. More information will follow when available.

IDEAS FOR PROGRAMMING

BLACK HISTORY MONTH/MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

Potential programs for Black History Month/Martin Luther King Jr. Day were discussed. Mr. Marquardt said he will reach out to the high schools in an attempt to get young people involved. Ms. Roehm suggested contacting the Skokie Public Library for some ideas and said she would be willing to be involved. Ms. Carandang suggested involving elementary students and their parents. Chairman Yanes suggested an African drums performance or some theatrical or musical programs. Mr. Marquardt said it was likely too late to plan an event for this year.

“DIA DE LOS MUERTOS” (DAY OF THE DEAD)

Chairman Yanes said she received some feedback that small children may be frightened so perhaps consider an adult only event. Ms. Roehm said in Evanston they do a children version of the day of the dead and the children love it. Ms. Lichteman said the day is about remembering and celebrating and not a Halloween event. Mr. Marquardt said a community member suggested having the event downtown with the

assistance of a downtown restaurant. This event would be planned for next November 1st or 2nd.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Chairman Yanes discussed an Oregon community that celebrates a different culture every month.

A potential gay pride parade was discussed. Mr. Marquardt will look into this further.

A St. Patrick's Day parade is being planned for March 10th in downtown Skokie. Mr. Marquardt said his father will attend with the Shriner Highlanders, who will be playing bagpipes and drums in the parade.

Ms. Roehm suggested forming a community foundation to help fund some of the diversity cultural events and she would like to be involved. Director Ohrlund said there are many legal requirements in organizing a foundation. The District has the Skokie Youth Foundation which is primarily used for scholarships for camps.

Commissioner Yanes suggested a monthly international film festival. Ms. Perez suggested to show the films at Devonshire Cultural Center. Mr. Marquardt said the Skokie Public Library shows international films. Director Ohrlund suggested partnering with the Library or the Skokie Theatre.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Diversity Advisory Committee will be Tuesday, January 8, 2018 at 6:30 pm at a location to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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