



**MINUTES OF THE
DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**
Oakton Community Center
4701 Oakton Street, Skokie, IL 60076
Thursday, October 4, 2018 – 6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

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

Committee Members Present: Pramod Shah
Michael Delanois

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

Public Present: Dr. Catherine Counard
Beth Lindley
Nancy Kim Phillips
Anwar Haq
Scott Holtz
Dr. Margaret Clauson
Krishna Goyal
Minal Desai
Jin Lee
Lisa Litberg
Rosamen Bhaupuri

CALL TO ORDER

Diversity Advisory Committee Chair Maureen Yanes called the meeting to order at 6:33 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.

PRESENTATION OF ACE PROGRAM

Dr. Catherine Counard made a presentation concerning ACEs: Adverse Childhood Experiences. We are discovering that ACEs affects childhood development, brain development and has negative outcomes over the life of the individual. Adverse experiences includes abuse, neglect, household dysfunction, war trauma and displacement and many other life events. Dr. Counard through the Skokie Health Department and its Community Health Plan hope to develop a public health approach to support those who have experienced ACEs in learning how to overcome the negative impacts of trauma, and get help when appropriate. The Skokie Health Department is forming a new Skokie ACEs Coalition to develop an approach to this problem.

Upcoming events discussed include Trauma 101 training on October 25 at the Skokie Public Library and a Resilient Families event on November 14th which will include various informational programs, food, and kid and family activities, also at the library. All 5 elementary school districts and the Niles Township District for Special Education are involved in co-sponsoring this event.

Significant discussion took place including additional training, the process of getting the community, including day care centers informed about ACEs, resilience, and how to proceed. Dr. Clausen discussed the Erikson Institute Early Development Instrument (EDI) study which is a current study which collects data from Kindergarten teachers to help identify vulnerabilities within the community. The community can use the data to target resources and intervene early to support young children's development. The data is presented in a map format and allows for different entities to view the data through different lenses. For example, the park district might be interested in mapping parks/green spaces in comparison to areas identified with increased vulnerability for young children to help guide decisions about programming or facility needs.

Commissioner Khoeun discussed the knowledge and resources that are part of the refugee community, and the need to get them involved. Some of this support structure is already in place for some cultures and communities, with existing experts, knowledge and resources.

Mrs. Desai suggested reaching out to the faith community as another potential partner group in this effort.

The Skokie ACEs Coalition will get back together in January for further discussions.

BOARD UPDATES

Mr. Ohrlund reported that the District's Diversity Advisory Committee Facebook page will be up tomorrow.

Mr. Ohrlund reported that a potential new dog park in the area north of Dempster and west of the CTA parking lot would likely not be possible as the Village of Skokie will be extending the bike path north through that area. Additionally ownership of the property that was being considered is complicated. He said staff is considering other ComEd and industrial property for an additional dog park or parks. Such a dog park would likely be managed the same way as the existing Pooch Park.

Mr. Holtz recommended allowing dogs in all parks in Skokie. Discussion took place concerning the pros and cons of allowing dogs in parks and other aspects of dogs within the community.

Mr. Ohrlund reported that the welcome sign in many languages for Weber Leisure Center was delivered recently but was found to be damaged and needs to be remade. Mr. Marquardt said delivery and installation is expected within two weeks.

Mr. Marquardt discussed planning concerning a Holi festival for 2019, likely to be held at Sports Park East in early June. He anticipates a 4-6 hour event with various vendors and sponsors. He noted that Mrs. Desai is assisting with planning the event and recruiting the vendors and sponsors.

Potential cultural programs in native languages was discussed. The park district can provide facilities where such programs can take place, as well as promote these programs on its website and elsewhere. Individual interested groups would need to provide the content and planning for such programs. The Skokie Library shows global language movies about once a month and the park district also provides these movies as part of the Festival of Cultures.

Several members of Skokie Cares and others, who have discussed a welcome center recently toured the Community Connection Center in Mt. Prospect. Beth Lindley noted that the Mt. Prospect center is very specific to their community and the needs of that community. A Skokie center or program would need to be designed around the needs of our community. Dr. Clauson described District 69's approach to reaching out to parents through family liaisons, who can speak the most common languages in the district and have built neighborhood networks of families.

Ms. Bhaupuri reported that Coming Together in Skokie and Niles Township is being planned for January through early April, 2019 and will feature the Polish community this year. Thirty programs are already scheduled and more are needed. She suggested that a Polish speaker could attend an upcoming committee meeting as part of Coming Together.

UPDATE ON SEED

Mr. Ohrlund reported that three SEED cohorts sponsored by Skokie Cares are up and running including one at Tot Learning Center. About 100 people are attending the three cohorts. A "graduate" course called SEED in Action for those who have already completed SEED has also begun.

UPCOMING PLANS: IDEAS FOR FUTURE PLANNING

Chairman Yanes asked for any ideas for future diversity planning. A day of service was recommended to commemorate Black History Month in February. Donating and collecting supplies for families in need was suggested as a service project for the committee. Collected items could include toothbrushes and toothpaste and other toiletries, clothing, etc. This project should probably be coordinated with the Village of Skokie Human Resources Department.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Previously discussed.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Diversity Advisory Committee will be Thursday, November 27, 2018 at 6:30 pm at Oakton Community Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Maureen Yanes adjourned the meeting at 7:56 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