

**TOWNSHIP OF VERONA**  
COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY



**MULTICULTURAL INCLUSION & ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING 7:00 P.M. 8/24/22**

**VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE**

Via the internet, please click the link below to join the meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/94981408541>

Via telephone, please dial 1(312)626-6799 or 1(646)558-8656

Use Zoom Meeting ID: 949-8140-8541, when prompted for a Participant ID, press #

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**A. CALL TO ORDER**

**B. STATEMENT REGARDING PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT**

*The notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act have been satisfied with respect to this meeting of the Multicultural Inclusion & Accessibility Advisory Committee which is being held via Zoom video conferencing. This information, along with the public internet link and telephone call-in information was posted in the Municipal Building, and sent the official newspapers of the Township, the Verona-Cedar Grove Times and the Star Ledger and MyVeronaNJ.com, TAPinto and the Patch, the official online news source(s) of the Township, at least 48 hours preceding the start time of this meeting. A public comment period will be held in the order it is listed on the meeting agenda and instructions on how to comment will be provided at the appropriate time.*

**C. ROLL CALL (Michele)**

Statement of Public Reading Act (Michele)

Roll Call:

**Present:**

Jim Cunningham

Michele Gruet

Maura Barrett

John Vadja

Steven Neale

Diane DiGiuseppe  
Andrew DiChiara  
Wesley Tashir Rodriguez  
Cynthia Nixon  
Kathleen Francis  
Carla Buglione

**Absent:**

Verena Mikhael  
Emma DePaul  
Steven Neale  
Claudine Pascale

Approval of Minutes:

First: John Vadja

Second: Kathleen Francis

Updates:

**Library (Claudine wasn't present, Catherine Adair Williams presented)**

Fall programs

Sensory stories on Sundays (kids with autism)

Hispanic Heritage Month – lunch time webinar Aldo Martinez, Spanish music guitarist performing Oct 9 @3PM.

Diwali Oct 24

Lehigh University Professor to present on Native American Culture

**Superintendent of Verona Public Schools (Diane DiGiuseppe)**

-Next Tuesday Grand River Solutions presenting a report at board meeting

- Might be nice for the MIACC to share calendar with parents

**Recreational Update (Jim & Andrew)**

- Creative expressions group to begin in Verona Art Therapy
- Exercise class led by personal trainer/social worker (adapted to physical and cognitive limitations).
- Maura Barrett to lead yoga for this population
- Animal Therapy
- Survey to be sent around
- General Rec Sports sign up and a separate inclusion sign up
- Exploring ideas through Caldwell University and their psychology students
- Shadow program
- Code of conduct for all who participate in the rec. programs

### **Town Hall Meeting - MIACC Presentation**

- Great feedback

### **Multicultural Calendar:**

#### **Hispanic Heritage Celebration is September 24 @4-7PM**

- 3 buckets of Food, Entertainment, and Activities
- Library can help along with Spanish Teachers for arts & crafts element
- Need a rain date or Inside location

### **Communications subcommittee:**

- List of all businesses, houses of worship, and Non for profits