

TOWNSHIP OF VERONA
COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY



MULTICULTURAL INCLUSION & ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING 7:00 P.M. September 28, 2022

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 #

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:

Present:

Jim Cunningham

Michele Gruet

Maura Barrett

John Vajda

Steven Neale

Diane DiGiuseppe

Andrew DiChiara

Wesley Tashir Rodriguez

Kathleen Francis

Carla Buglione

Verena Mikhael

Steven Neale

Emma DePaul - Absent

*****AGENDA SUBJECT TO CHANGE*****

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes from a Regular meeting held on August 24, 2022

First: John Vajda

Second: Kathleen Francis

E. STANDING MEETING ITEMS

1. Updates from the School Superintendent

- Final report from the DE&I Consultant to be posted this week. Follow-up will include trainings for teachers so they are better equipped to handle sensitive topics.
- Consultant to hold focus groups and work with parents, students, and faculty on DE&I
 - Suggestion to really spell out all that is included under the DE&I umbrella, as many people still do not fully grasp the array of topics.

2. Update from Recreation Department

- Senior Programming will return
- Working on Inclusion Programs (basketball) & Programs for those with disabilities
- Monday Night Exercise/Fit Class (4 participants currently)
- Creative Arts on Saturdays
- Possibly work with Dynamic Dance for an inclusion Dance session for those with disabilities
- Sensory portion of Fall-O-Ween
- Spring Track inclusion program

3. Discussion of MIAAC calendar & upcoming events in November & December 2022

- Events that are up next:
 - Diwali – Oct 19
 - Simple event this year maybe crafts & dancing
 - Verona resident is leading this event
 - Italian Heritage - Need approval for Flag Raising
 - Building lights of green with & red
 - Fair In The Square – Dec 3
 - Looking to implement time for special needs population (quiet time with Santa, time allotted for sensory population in bounce house, arts & crafts component).
 - Walk & Roll Event
 - Band Festival – Oct 15
 - Oct 2 – Building lights up for Fallen Firefighters
 - Hanukkah event is also in December

*****AGENDA SUBJECT TO CHANGE*****

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion of Hispanic Heritage event that occurred on September 24, 2022
 - This was a successful event with about 75 people an hour for attendance
 - The attendance could have been greater if we had more planning time & promotion time
 - Food & Entertainment was a success (next time make sure there are beverages for serving)
 - Ice Cream Truck & Bounce House
 - The event could have been 2 hours
 - Planning Check List or Sub-committee would have been helpful, this way
 - Mindful of budget
 -
2. MIAAC codification" and then the first sub bullet "Deputy Mayor McGrath raised codification of committee with Township Council and no objections were raised" and next bullet "Ordinance draft will be presented in New Business for discussion at October 17th meeting.
 - Recommendation to increase the committee to 9 people

G. PUBLIC COMMENT

N/A

H. ADJOURNMENT

*The public may speak on any matter during Public Comment, listed on the agenda. At that time, anyone from the public wishing to speak will be prompted to raise his/her virtual hand. You may do so by pressing the "raise hand" button on your monitor or, if dialing in by phone, press *9. You will be recognized and advised that you are unmuted.*