

**MEETING MINUTES FROM A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MULTICULTURAL INCLUSION & ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

HELD AT 7:00 P.M. ON MAY 27, 2026.

VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

A. CALL TO ORDER *meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Roxanna Tirado.*

B. STATEMENT REGARDING PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT - read by Roxanna Tirado.

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:

Roxanna Tirado

Kathleen Francis

Michele Gruet

John Vajda

Rita Chevalier

P.J. Pimpinelli

Michelle O'Neill

Diane DiGiuseppe – Superintendent of School

Claudine Pascale – Verona Public Library

Absent:

Naura Reynoso

Tovah Kopan

Cynthia Holland - Council Representative

Michael McMahon – Verona Recreation

Sinaileen Dacoff – Student Representative

Elissa Pena – Student Representative

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting for 3/25/26 and 4/22/26 were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

REPRESENTATIVE UPDATES

Library update – C.Pasquale provided an update stating that the Library will be present at the Pride event and will be having a pop-up book sale. C.Pasquale also stated that the library is working with a vendor to make the website “ADA compliant” and ensure that the website is accessible to all residents. In addition, C.Pasquale stated that the Carol Stafford room has a new AV system that will help hearing impaired individuals.

Schools update – D.DiGiuseppe shared that Verona Public Schools also updated their website to an ADA compliant platform, with some budget restraints. PDFs were an issue and have been removed. D.DiGiuseppe stated that all are preparing for the end of year. D.DiGiuseppe was faced with difficult budget decisions but despite this was able to secure a .65 FTE for academic enrichment.

Recreation – An update will be provide next meeting.

Town update - R.Tirado provided an update on the age-friendly initiative. The survey was completed, interviews done, and report was finalized. This was shared with Verona’s leadership team and will be shared with residents shortly.

NEW BUSINESS

Secretary Position – R.Tirado asked the committee to consider being appointed secretary for MIAAC. M.O’Neill and R.Tirado provided a description of the responsibilities.

Older Americans Month – R.Tirado stated that the theme for Older Americans Month is “Champion your Health.” There will be emphasis placed on health initiatives for seniors, including exercises like chair yoga, bus services, and medical transportation. R.Tirado stated that the information will be emphasized for the community and K.Francis agreed that this was an excellent initiative.

Pride Month – P.Pimpinelli shared the date for the Pride Event, which is scheduled for 6/7, from 12:30pm to 2:30pm. The flag raising will occur at 1:30p. P.Pimpinelli stated that they are in need for volunteers. M.Gruet asked D.DiGiuseppe for assistances and D.DiGiuseppe stated that she would notify student council on 5/28.

Disability Pride Month – R.Tirado asked that the subcommittee meet to discuss planning for July. J.Vajda added that he had recently attending a disability conference and has beneficial material to share. M.O'Neill reminded committee of event hosted regarding employment services for disabled adults and that this was a need for Verona residents, as many inquiries were being made. J.Vajda stated that so many resources are available and the subcommittee will schedule a meeting to discuss.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Meeting was adjourned at 7:33pm.