

**MEETING MINUTES FROM A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MULTICULTURAL INCLUSION & ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HELD AT 7:00 P.M. ON FEBRUARY 25, 2026
VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE**

A. CALL TO ORDER *meeting was called to order at 7:14 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

Michele Gruet

John Vajda

P.J. Pimpinelli

Cynthia Holland - Council Representative

Sinaileen Dacoff - Student Representative

Elissa Pena - Student Representative

Absent:

Rita Chevalier

Kathleen Francis

Tovah Kopan

Michelle O'Neill

Naura Reynoso

Diane DiGiuseppe - Superintendent of School

Michael McMahon - Verona Recreation

Claudine Pascale - Verona Public Library

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting for 1/28/26 were not approved, as the meeting did not have quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

REPRESENTATIVE UPDATES

Library update – Black History Month event canceled due to snowstorm.

Schools update – No update.

Recreation – No update.

Town update - C.Holland - annual budget process is underway, including for MIAAC. Budget is adopted in March.

NEW BUSINESS

Town-Wide Initiative – R.Tirado stated Age-Friendly Communities survey is up and live, for residents 65+.

2026 events – R.Tirado discussed the MIAAC calendar for 2026 and dates were chosen for all events. The dates (and tentative dates) are outlined in the MIAAC calendar. Annual budget is fairly similar to last year. Budgets for each event need to be finalized/allocated by the end of March.

-Lunar New Year - March 3, 6pm, Verona Community Center. Call for volunteers.

-Black History Month -Unfortunately canceled due to snowstorm. Working with Library to find a new date to screen the movie, “Akeela the Bee.”

-Women of Impact Panel - March 29, 3pm, Verona Community Center

Food Allergy Awareness Walk - Volunteer reached out to see if MIAAC can help promote the event or participate in the event. MIAAC will continue conversations with Elissa Northrup about what is allowed/possible.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm