

Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2023

Present

Luanne Lo Monte; Robert Lundquist; Ryan Maley; Annette McMahon; Hortensia Ramos; Ricky Rodgers; Susan Sosa Bachmeier; William H. Small Jr

Absent

Annette McMahon; Penelope Torres

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairperson Small called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM.

Ryan Maley took roll call and noted a quorum was present.

Michele Clark and Katrina Boatwright from the City of Aurora were present.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Lundquist moved the minutes from the December 8, 2022 be approved. Ms. Sosa Bachmeier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

No members of the public were present.

Introductions of New Commissioners

Chairperson Small asked our newest commissioner to introduce herself. Luanne LoMonte stated she has lived in Aurora for seven years. Previously she lived in Wisconsin and was an active volunteer including LGBTQIA+ activities and the Special Olympics. She was happy to learn the Commission was looking for volunteers to serve, feels that active volunteers are important. She is looking forward to serving on the Commission.

City Senior and Disability Service

Chairperson Small introduced Ms. Boatwright, who is Director of the City's City Senior and Disability Services. Ms. Boatwright gave a brief presentation of the Advisory Committee on Disabilities.

Highlights include:

- The Advisory Commission has been active since 2020.
- Disabilities Listening tour.
- Mission:
- "Lens" for inclusion

Commissioners discussed ways to collaborate with Ms. Boatwright the Advisory Commission.

Highlights of the discussion included:

- How can we raise awareness? Ms. Boatwright suggestion inclusion in the resource guides she is creating. Additionally, she suggested speaking to the Advisory Commission and delivering brochures.
- Ms. Clark and Ms. Boatwright will schedule a time to present to the Advisory Commission.
- Ms. Sosa-Bachmeier asked for suggestions where brochures can be placed to reach the disabled community. Ms. Boatwright will make suggestions.
- Ms. Boatwright said there is no exact count of number of Aurorans who are identified as disabled. It is one of her tasks to gather this data. Sharp increase into number of residents falling into the disability category.
- Ms. Sosa-Bachmeier asked about Impairments vs Disabilities. Ms. Boatwright discussed that these are medical diagnoses. A disability may or may not rise to the level of an impairment.

Ms. Boatwright left the meeting,

Presentation to City Council Committee of the Whole

Chairperson Small reported that a presentation was made to the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Maley presented some information about the Commissions, its recent activities, and some data from the State of Illinois. Multiple aldermen and alderwomen committed to publishing information about the Commission in their respective newsletters. An article about the presentation appeared on the front page of the Aurora Beacon News.

Disbursement of Approved Funds

Commissioners discussed arranging visits to the organizations.

- Ms. Bachmeier will coordinate with World Relief and Interfaith Aurora
- Mr. Rodgers will coordinate with AAMOU and African American Heritage Advisory Board.
- Chairperson Small will coordinate with Quad County African American Chamber of Commerce
- Mr. Maley has reached out to the other organizations and is awaiting responses.

AHRC Banner & Table Throw

Chairperson Small showed the new pull-up banner and table throw for use at events.

Mr. Rodgers recommended attending the Juneteenth AAMOU event. Ms. Ramos discussed marketing ideas to promote the Commission.

Chairperson Small will store the banner and throw until they are needed

Interfaith Alliance Breakfast (Friday January 13th)

Chairperson Small has not heard anything about this event and will work to participate in the next event.

Complaints

There are no open complaints at this time.

Announcements

Commissioners discussed various upcoming community events. Commissioners discussed some administrative details such as ordering brochures and obtaining name badges.

Next Meeting

Chairperson Small stated the next meeting will be February 9, 2023.

Adjournment

Mr. Rodger moved for adjournment of the meeting. Ms. Ramos seconded. Commissioners unanimously agreed and the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Maley