

August 19, 2010

The City Diversity Board met in the Penn Room of City Hall at 4:30 pm on this date. Taking minutes was Sandy Hummel.

Present and representing were:

Robert Jefferson, NAACP
Sandy Hummel, HR
Carl Geffken, City Management
William Heim, Police Chief
William Rehr, Fire Chief
Deb Hoag, Utilities Manager for Public Works Director
William Frymoyer, AFSCME
Joe Ayala, Diversity Officer
Charles Younger, Solicitor
Jose Molina, Guest

Absent:

Carmela Boykins, Citizen
George Taveras, IAFF
Vaughn Spencer, Council

Ms. Hummel volunteered to take minutes.

A motion to approve the minutes from the July 21, 2010 meeting was made by Mr. Geffken, seconded by Mr. Rehr. Motion carried.

The attached Agenda was prepared by Mr. Joe Ayala and distributed to the Board.

Mr. Ayala introduced Mr. Molina as the former chair of the PA Statewide Latino Coalition.

Mr. Jefferson reminded the Board that he is willing to serve as Board Chair until the position can be filled. He stated, Ms. Mary Alamo was the Vice Chair but has since resigned and the Board needs to fill that position as well as the Chair and Recording Secretary.

Mr. Jefferson said he spoke with Mr. Ayala who confirmed Ordinance 54-2007 concerning Board makeup has been amended by Ordinance 6-2010.

Mr. Geffken said the Board is comprised of:

- Council representative
- AFSCME representative
- FOP Lodge #9 representative
- IAFF Local 1803 representative
- City Management representative
- HR representative
- Two (2) citizens
- Public Works Director
- Fire Chief
- Police Chief
- Fire Diversity Board representative (NAACP)
- PSLC representative

Mr. Geffken noted, the IAFF declined having a representative at the current time.

Mr. Jefferson asked if there were any volunteers to serve as Chair, Vice Chair and Recording Secretary.

Mr. Geffken said he volunteers to serve as Recording Secretary.

Mr. Jefferson asked if there were any volunteers for Chair and Vice Chair.

Mr. Ayala said the two (2) citizen reps are not present suggesting the Board wait until we have those reps to fill the gaps.

Mr. Geffken recommended Mr. Frymoyer serve as Vice Chair.

Mr. Frymoyer accepted.

Mr. Ayala said Mr. Molina is interested to serve as the PSLC rep and is waiting on Council to approve his appointment.

Mr. Jefferson asked what the citizen requirement *reflecting the geographic, demographic, technical, and non-technical backgrounds of the citizens of Reading* meant.

Mr. Geffken said he believed it meant that the citizen complement should not be weighted toward one area or ethnicity given the strong Latino and African American community in Reading.

Mr. Jefferson said he would continue to serve as interim Chair.

Mr. Geffken said that was a good way to proceed until the Board is fully complemented. He said the Board could still proceed with its' mission statement and by-laws.

Mr. Ayala distributed sample by-laws (see attachment) for the Board to consider. He asked that everyone review and comment for discussion at a future meeting.

There was discussion that the by-laws might want to include Board removal if 3 meetings are missed.

Mr. Jefferson asked if an excused absence was considered a missed meeting.

Mr. Geffken said if the excuse was not taken seriously the Chair could remove.

Mr. Ayala called on Mr. Molina to address the Board regarding the PSLC. He said he heard that the PSLC is no longer functioning but the City needs to know for sure to proceed. He stated, the original plan was for the Police Diversity Board to function for 5 years which ended this March and if the coalition and City agree the City Diversity Board will continue in its' place. He further stated, he has info from State rep Cruz that the PSLC is no longer operating and said the City's Attorney Dave MacMain is working with Mr. Weinbrake to move on.

Mr. Molina said he was part of the PSLC diversity lawsuit 5 years ago but that committee is no longer recognized by the State. He said there last official meetings were 3 years ago and he was the last Chair representing this region. He further stated, at the invite of Mr. Ayala he would like to assist the City to support diversity any way he can.

Mr. Geffken said Ordinance 6-2010 may have to be amended to address board composition.

Mr. Ayala said the City needs to determine if that Board still meets and if they can.

Mr. Jefferson said he would welcome Mr. Molina to serve on this Board and asked how long his appointment could take.

Mr. Geffken said council meets the first of the month but there would be an interview with the council committee then to council for approval.

Mr. Jefferson asked if anyone had questions for Mr. Molina.

Mr. Younger asked Mr. Molina if he was saying there were no official meetings of the PSLC committee for 3 years.

Mr. Molina said that was correct and that in itself was a violation of their bylaws as they stated regular meetings had to be held and reports had to be done.

Mr. Younger asked if he was aware of any cease and desist order.

Mr. Molina said he was also trying to get clarification from Mr. Cortez but is not aware of any cease and desist at the Federal level.

Mr. Jefferson asked if that order would interfere with appointing Mr. Molina to this Board.

Mr. Geffken said the Ordinance would just have to be amended to replace the PSLC rep. He said he could be appointed as a citizen rep.

Mr. Ayala said the Board needs to make a concerted effort to determine Ms. Boykins intent on serving on this Board.

Mr. Geffken said next month makes 3 misses for Ms. Boykins.

A motion was made by Mr. Geffken, seconded by Ms. Hummel, to remove Ms. Boykins as a board member. Motion carried.

Mr. Geffken said as the Recording Secretary he would notify Ms. Boykins in writing.

There was no new business.

Mr. Jefferson asked if there was anything for the good of the order.

Mr. Geffken thanked everyone for attending stating he realizes everyone has other issues including Act 47 to handle but believed this committee will be a success for the City as a whole.

Mr. Ayala asked that any changes to the contact information list be forwarded to him.

Mr. Jefferson said the next meeting is scheduled for 9/15/10 in the Penn Room.

Ms. Hummel said she will be out-of-town on vacation and will not be able to attend that meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Frymoyer, seconded by Mr. Geffken to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 pm. Motion carried.

Next meeting: Weds August 18, 2010 at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Hummel