

City of Geneva Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Taskforce

Meeting Minutes

March 22, 2023

Call to Order

The regular meeting of City of Geneva DEI Taskforce called to order at 6:34pm at Geneva Fire Department Training Room by Chair Nuzzo Erickson.

Roll Call

Present: Gramlich, Albert, McMillen, Cervenka, Amaya, Nuzzo-Ericksen, Kelly also present Johnson and Kafer.

Amendments to the Agenda

None

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from February 2023 Meeting were not available for approval.

Presentation

Chamber - Paula Schmidt, President of the Geneva Chamber of Commerce highlighted various efforts of the Chamber to attract diverse shoppers but also businesses to Geneva. These programs include advertising in Pridely and USA Today Race in America edition and the local Latino Magazine in Spanish. They are in the beginning phases of planning a Latino Festival in collaboration with restaurant owners. They've also made small changes to existing events like the Bridal Walk is not called the Wedding Walk. This year the Swedish Day Parade Grand Marshall was a resident that competed in Special Olympics. There is much more work to be done. They are starting to discuss a Pride Festival and also providing more support to manufacturing business. The Chamber's membership only represents 1/3 of Geneva business. Membership is not only limited to Geneva businesses. They also do a Geneva giving day for non profits. Member Gramlich suggested Chamber guide in Spanish.

Updates

Culture Ally – Some members reported not getting the email to sign up for the software. Member Cervenka would contact them and have them resend.

Ethos DEI Kick off – Member Cervenka noted that Ethos will host 4 Co creations sessions. Different members of the Taskforce would attend various sessions. Not more than 3 members could attend at one time to avoid an OMA violation. SPAC and staff liaison can attend all sessions. There will also be an Inclusive Language Session for the entire community to attend. Staff Liaison Johnson is working on a date far enough out that the event can be advertised. Chair Nuzzo-Ericksen indicated that perhaps it could be livestreamed from the Library. Because the session is in the middle of the work day attendance may not be the best, however there will be more opportunities for stakeholder feedback.

New Business/Public Comment

Chris Pakan, Geneva resident stated that she was disappointed with the work done by the Taskforce to date. Her expectations were that there would be more of a roundtable discussion on DEI in Geneva.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2023

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:04pm, motion by Albert second by Cervenka.

Minutes submitted by: Mera Johnson, Staff Liaison