



MEETING MINUTES

Community Inclusion Advisory Committee Tuesday, April 25, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Imran Malik, Chair, called the April 25, 2023 meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

ROLL CALL

Committee Members Present: Imran Malik (Chair), Niki Lombardo (Vice Chair), Kristine Ademir, Michael Haynes, Peggy Kilty, Max Xu, Isao Shoji, Katawi Cato, Noor Amara, Ming Yu

City Staff Present: Christine Nardecchia, Chief Justin Páez, Rebecca Myers, J.M. Rayburn, Kirby Dearth, Hayley Griggs

PUBLIC COMMENTS NOT ON AGENDA

There were no public comments.

WELCOME / APPRECIATION: FORMER AND NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Malik congratulated members of C.I.A.C., both those who were reappointed and the Committee's new appointee, Katawi Cato. Mr. Malik thanked former member Erica Adams for her commitment to C.I.A.C. and looks forward to her continued support of C.I.A.C.'s effort as her schedule allows.

Ms. Cato introduced herself to the group and shared her enthusiasm for joining the Committee. She has been a resident of Dublin for two years, having moved to Dublin with her eleven year old son.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Ademir proposed a motion to approve the March 28, 2023 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Niki Lombardo. Minutes were approved unanimously.

JASCO GRASSROOTS SUMMIT

Benjamin Pachter, Ph.D. from the Japan-America Society of Central Ohio (JASCO) presented the mission of JASCO, which is to provide programming, resources, and connections that enhance and enrich Japanese-American relationships. JASCO is based in Dublin and is the producer of the Obon Festival. This year's event, in partnership with the Dublin Arts Council and the City of Dublin, is scheduled for August 12 at Riverside Crossing Park. Dr. Pachter emphasized the importance of partnerships with businesses, schools, and community members.

An ongoing JASCO project has been the location of the 2023 Japan American Grassroots Summit; Central Ohio has been chosen as this year's location. The last time the Summit was held in the United States, it took place in Seattle. This year's Summit is the first in-person session since 2019. He shared the two main components of the Summit: 1) Opening ceremonies and a reception, followed by 2) a series of home stays. Dublin will be serving as a local "home stay" session for the Summit, which raises the need for host families in the city for this effort. Dr. Pachter shared information on sponsorship for the event as well.

Questions/Comments

Ms. Aldemir asked if local sessions were different sessions within Dublin or simultaneous sessions held in different regions of the state. Dr. Pachter explained the organization of the sessions and that groups will be matched on preferences.

Ms. Kilty asked if the Summit engages couples, families, children, or singles as host home stays. Dr. Pachter answered that a mix of these is often the case and will be finalized as part of the matching process.

Vice Chair Lombardo asked if it will be up to the host families to organize an itinerary for guests in Dublin.

Staff member Kirby Dearth answered that it would be a mix of both and shared a list of Dublin activities that may be of interest for Japanese guests that share the culture of Dublin including Hidaka USA, Bridge Park vendors, Dublin Schools sporting events, golf facilities visits, public art displays, and more. Mr. Dearth asked for feedback and suggestions of other ideas for the visitors.

Chair Malik suggested adding Jeni's Ice Cream to the list of possible visit spots, as well as a Honda plant tour. Since many of the local sessions are in close proximity, Dr. Pachter shared the challenge of sites of interest being outside of one city and close to another.

Chair Malik suggested that if a solidified date is set for visitors arriving in Dublin, the Dublin Link could be lit up with Japanese Flag colors to welcome guests.

Ms. Amara suggested other fall activities like a haunted house.

Mr. Haynes suggested Indian Run Falls and a possible Farmer's Market depending on timing.

Mr. Shoji suggested a trampoline park if any children will be in visiting groups.

Dr. Pachter shared that the application to be a host family is now live on the website.

Vice Chair Lombardo asked if C.I.A.C. could provide other support with the Summit. Mr. Dearth suggested committee members share the information with their networks as the logical first step in marketing the opportunity to be a host family as well as the Summit itself. Mr. Dearth also suggested being a part of the welcoming activities.

Ms. Aldemir asked if dietary restrictions would be an element of matched families. Dr. Pachter shared that this will be shared in the application and matching process.

Ms. Kilty suggested showing guests shared paths and bike paths, as well as engaging with bike sharing and e-bikes.

Chair Malik motioned to move Agenda Item 7 ahead of Agenda Item 6. Mr. Haynes seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

PRIORITY AREA 7: TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY

J.M. Rayburn, a Planner in the Division of Transportation and Mobility and LGBTQ+ Liaison on the City's Internal DE&I Committee, shared updates on transportation and mobility efforts in alignment with DE&I Strategic Framework Priority Area 7. Mr. Rayburn shared the news that the City of Dublin received the Silver Status Bicycle Friendly Community Award Distinction from the League of American Bicyclists – the only community in the state of Ohio with this achievement.

Mr. Rayburn shared the expansion of the CoGo Bike Share system, launching nine stations in 2023 with hopes to expand the program to city and community buildings.

A mobility hub is being constructed at the Dublin Community Recreation Center to elevate non-vehicle travel. The Mobility Hub will have three protected covers over bike racks, infrared heating for colder months, and will be a hub for the Dublin Connector.

Mr. Rayburn informed the Committee that the Dublin Connector is a free service for residents over the age of 55, with disabilities, or employees in the City Monday through Saturday. Based on ridership data, the Dublin Connector has increased ridership since 2022.

Mr. Rayburn shared challenges facing Transportation and Mobility in Dublin, including language support and education/awareness, as well as upcoming community events including the Dublin Bike Rodeo and Community Pride Bike Ride in June. Mr. Rayburn suggested that C.I.A.C. provide feedback on translation services.

Questions/Comments

Vice Chair Lombardo asked if there is data on bike commuters in Dublin. Mr. Rayburn shared that while this number is low, community education and the engagement of businesses and schools to encourage bike ridership. Mr. Rayburn shared information on the Bike Rodeo on May 6 from 10a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Ms. Kilty asked when the Dublin Connector launched. Mr. Rayburn shared that the Connector began in January 2019.

Mr. Haynes asked if there was a rate of consistent riders. Mr. Rayburn replied that last year that number was about 70 riders.

Student representative Lydia Noteman asked if the instant language translation service that will be piloted at the Recreation Center mentioned at last month's meeting could be utilized here. Ms. Nardecchia shared that this is in process in regard to the Dublin Connector.

Vice Chair Lombardo asked about the reach/boundaries of the Dublin Connector. Mr. Rayburn shared that resident riders must be within the confines of the City. Mr. Rayburn suggested that interested committee members and residents check out Dubscopy for accurate city limits.

Ms. Kilty asked if *Nextdoor* has been utilized for outreach on mobility efforts. Ms. Nardecchia shared that the best way for community to engage with a shift in modes of transportation is through sharing through networks.

PRIDE – RAINBOW DUBLIN BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Bobby Weston, Board President and Founder of Rainbow Dublin presented the history of Pride in Dublin. In 2021, Dublin hosted its first Pride celebration in the form of a Unity Walk. Rainbow Dublin shared its interest in having a more fully developed Pride celebration in Dublin. Mr. Weston shared the benefits of an annual Pride celebration including awareness, increased local support, and commercial activity. Mr. Weston this year's Dublin Pride events is scheduled on June 24th from 12:00 to 3 p.m. in the Bridge Park area.

Questions/Comments

Ms. Aldemir asked if there will be activities for children at the event. Mr. Weston shared that if any vendors can provide activities for members, it will be included in the celebration. Ms. Aldemir mentioned that the Safe Space program could be involved.

Ms. Myers shared social media engagement from community Pride events, with increased engagement among Pride posts in comparison to other posts made and shared by the City of Dublin.

Chair Malik asked if a Bridge evening event is planned. Mr. Weston shared that the Bridge Lighting is confirmed, but evening events for the lighting of the Dublin Link have not been planned yet. Mr. Haynes shared that committee members can share will be sharing it via Facebook soon.

Ms. Kilty brought up the Bridge Lighting schedule, sharing that the scheduled lighting for Pride is a week before the Community Pride event.

Ms. Amara shared advice that events meant to see the Bridge Lighting during the summer months should be scheduled for later in the evening to account for longer days.

C.A.C. UPDATES

Chief Justin Páez shared updates from the Chief's Advisory Committee (C.A.C.). The C.A.C. met on April 13th, welcoming two new members. The discussion on April 13th was centered on safety at levels from the local to federal level. Chief Páez shared insights from the safety meeting with Dublin City Schools to educate the community on how the Dublin Police Department partners with the community in order to keep Dublin safe and connected. On Saturday, DPD received word of threats on the app *Discord*. DPD identified the information of individuals (as much possible given the anonymous tip) and was able to say with confidence that accountability for those individuals involved was acted upon by Monday morning.

Questions/Comments

Ms. Kilty mentioned the Dublin City School Board meeting and recent safety events from the weekend. She relayed that School Board members discussed the desire for School Resource Officers in all elementary schools, asking Chief's insight on the matter. Chief Páez shared that DPD continues to analyze the resources available within the department in order to successfully address concerns that arise within Dublin City Schools.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Malik shared the Proclamation of National Arab American Month. He also announced that the New American Book Fair is scheduled for September 23 at the Columbus Metropolitan Library Dublin Branch; he hopes to have more updates at the next meeting.

Chair Malik asked about the status of Bridge Lighting calendar. Ms. Nardecchia shared that there are upcoming bridge lighting policy meetings with the City Manager. In the meantime, public requests for bridge lighting are still being accepted.

Ms. Myers shared information about the upcoming event this weekend at the Justice Center on Saturday April 29th for new or gently used bikes to be distributed to kids in Central Ohio during the summer.

Chair Malik shared that May 4th is the "National Day of Prayer." A breakfast is scheduled at Indian Run United Methodist Church. Chief Paez slated to be on the speaker panel.

Ms. Kilty shared insights from her Citizen U experience, stating that it has been an enlightening experience meeting so many staff members and learning about the City.

Chair Malik asked how C.I.A.C. may be involved, represented, and engaged with the Muirfield Golf Tournament and Fourth of July Parade. Ms. Nardecchia shared that it can be discussed at the next meeting which will take place at the Development Building rather than Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Lombardo motioned to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Aldemir seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Hayley Griggs, Management Intern