



MEETING MINUTES

Community Inclusion Advisory Committee

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Dublin Chamber of Commerce, 129 S. High St.

Call to Order

Imran Malik, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m. Ms. Nardecchia thanked the group for their flexibility with the meeting location change.

Roll Call

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

Absent: Katawi Cato (excused) and Vineet Goel

Public Comments Not on Agenda

Dublin resident Faye Bullio was in attendance and introduced herself as a longtime Dublin resident who has just retired from Nationwide Children's Hospital. She stated she appreciates the focus of this committee and the city's work in this space. Chair Malik welcomed Ms. Bullio.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Shoji moved to approve the August minutes; Ms. Aldemir seconded. Approved unanimously.

Group Photo

The group paused for an updated C.I.A.C. photograph.

Speaker Series Draft Review: "The City develops an educational speaker's series for the general public regarding topics of DEI and cultural awareness." (*Reference: Priority Area 8, DE&I Strategic Framework*)

Chair Malik asked Ms. Nardecchia to provide an update on a speaker series draft for review and conversation.

Ms. Nardecchia distributed a draft document for possibilities in 2024 consisting of speakers, community conversations, and podcast topic ideas. The ideas/draft document included the following:

January	EVENT: MLK Sunday Supper Weekend Kickoff Speaker
February	PODCAST: (Black History Month): Dublin Black Students United
March	COMMUNITY CONVERSATION: (Women's History Month): Women in Dublin Leadership
April	EVENT: Flagship Speaker Curtis Hill, A Culture of Belonging
June	PODCAST: (Pride Month): Pride in Pride, Dublin's LGBTQ Advocates
September	COMMUNITY CONVERSATION: Stepping Outside Your Circle – A Conversation with Asian Leaders in Dublin
October	EVENT: Daring to Dream Big – Author and Astronaut Jose Hernandez
November	PODCAST: Honoring our Roots – A Conversation with Chief Billy Friend, Chief of the Wyandot Nation
December	COMMUNITY CONVERSATION: Outreach to Dublin's Nonprofit Organizations

Ms. Nardecchia reiterated that this was all in draft form and the series as a whole is a concept, but the idea is to mix up the offerings so as not to be all speaker events, but discussions with real people on real topics. She mentioned she was unsure of the December "Outreach to Dublin's Nonprofits," as it needs a different title/end of year way to reach out to those in need.

The group expressed very positive reaction and discussed several of the proposed choices.

Speaker Series Draft Review: "The City develops an educational speaker's series for the general public regarding topics of DEI and cultural awareness." (*Reference: Priority Area 8, DE&I Strategic Framework*)

Chair Malik asked Ms. Nardecchia to provide an update on a speaker series draft for review and conversation.

Ms. Nardecchia distributed a draft document for possibilities in 2024 consisting of speakers, community conversations, and podcast topic ideas. The ideas/draft document included the following:

January	EVENT: MLK Sunday Supper Weekend Kickoff Speaker
February	PODCAST: (Black History Month): Dublin Black Students United
March	COMMUNITY CONVERSATION: (Women's History Month): Women in Dublin Leadership
April	EVENT: Flagship Speaker Curtis Hill, A Culture of Belonging
June	PODCAST: (Pride Month): Pride in Pride, Dublin's LGBTQ Advocates
September	COMMUNITY CONVERSATION: Stepping Outside Your Circle – A Conversation with Asian Leaders in Dublin
October	EVENT: Daring to Dream Big – Author and Astronaut Jose Hernandez
November	PODCAST: Honoring our Roots – A Conversation with Chief Billy Friend, Chief of the Wyandot Nation
December	COMMUNITY CONVERSATION: Outreach to Dublin's Nonprofit Organizations

Ms. Nardecchia reiterated that this was all in draft form and the series as a whole is a concept, but the idea is to mix up the offerings so as not to be all speaker events, but discussions with real people on real topics. She mentioned she was unsure of the December "Outreach to Dublin's Nonprofits," as it needs a different title/end of year way to reach out to those in need.

The group expressed very positive reaction and discussed several of the proposed choices.

Community Inclusion Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2023

Page 3 of 6

Vice Chair Lombardo said she liked the diversity of topics represented in the concept plan. She also mentioned she was once part of a company that did a "Bring Your Own Holiday" in December, and it was really well received within that company.

Ms. Aldemir agreed saying that she has attended events through the Columbus Realtors Association on different traditions and customs, which helps to develop a better understanding and respect among cultures.

Mr. Haynes said this concept plan offered a lot of variety and collaboration and noticed the matching months (Hispanic Heritage Month with the Jose Hernandez event, for example), and said he didn't think that was necessary, but noticed these choices were mindful of various times of the year.

Ms. Aldemir said it was more about learning about one another, not just the times of year.

Chair Malik said that the Dublin Arts Council is working on a very collaborative public art exhibit for 2024 involving different animals (including snails) that would bring with it extensive community engagement and a natural fit into the DE&I space.

Ms. Amara asked if the public art exhibit would be permanent or temporary. Chair Malik replied it would be for approximately a one-year timeframe and it is still in the working draft stages.

Ms. Kilty brought the group back to the speaker topics, saying that she thought these topics hit the mark with exciting, vibrant and relevant topics. She continued by encouraging a "now what?" piece in each conversation, presentation or podcast, which could serve as a call to action.

Ms. Aldemir agreed with that suggestion since so much media is negative that it would be good to invite media. This invites a positive perspective.

Vice Chair Lombardo agreed with the media point, but also likes the "Now what?" call to action for people to put what they've learned into action. She suggested a QR code at each conversation with a link to a survey and ways to become or stay engaged. She also said that the City definitely has a role in helping to facilitate these harder conversations, and perhaps this should be a multi-year plan.

Ms. Aldemir agreed and said it needed to expand, invite HOAs, leaders, etc.

Ms. Amara shared that she liked the set up quite a bit because of the range of touching so many groups/cultures. She said she wanted to say that refugees are not a group included in this, and she would advocate for this topic since many Dublin residents are engaged in this issue.

Community Inclusion Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2023

Page 4 of 6

Ms. Nardecchia said that her impression is that the faith community largely facilitates refugee settling, and would encourage them to host conversations on the topic as raising awareness to the issue.

Ms. Alemir said that all faiths are involved in the refugee movement.

Chair Malik said there is a need recognize the changing of the makeup of the Dublin community, and this will not happen overnight. It is a "melting pot" concept, but we can't go from zero to 60 overnight and have to slowly introduce these conversations and see where they take us.

Ms. Kilty asked if she could host her own "Unity in the Community" block party? Could we suggest to residents to host such block parties?

Ms. Nardecchia said block parties are always a great idea, but wouldn't want to "program" them, as they are meant for neighborhoods to decide their own gatherings.

Ms. Myers said that the Police Department does try to attend as many block parties as possible. She also wanted to add that a segment of the population not included in this concept plan is people with disabilities.

Vice Chair Lombardo suggested including that topic in a Community Conversation.

Chair Malik thanked Ms. Nardecchia for her work and plan concept and would look forward to hearing about next steps.

Chair Malik asked the group for any other feedback.

Mr. Shoji shared that he was thinking as well about the people with disabilities topic so it's not just about culture or race, but that he didn't see the need to switch things out because he recognizes this is meant to be part of a series.

Mr. Xu said he thought it was a great start and that the community could learn a lot from a series like this.

Ms. Kilty added that she especially liked the topic or title of a "Community of Belonging."

Mr. Haynes also added that he agreed on the "now what" or action steps part of the suggestions this evening.

Chair Malik added that C.I.A.C. had not heard any youth or student perspective and that it would be meaningful to seek that.

Vice Chair Lombardo said that perhaps Ms. Nardecchia could reach out to some youth to get their feedback. Ms. Nardecchia said that she would be glad to do so, especially with Citizen U Jumpstart alumni.

Ms. Amara mentioned she especially appreciated that effort because many of these topics really affect young people.

Ms. Nardecchia mentioned that if this series does go forward, she and her team would prepare resource guides for attendees on each topic.

Outreach & Engagement Updates

Ms. Nardecchia stated she had no other updates this evening.

CAC Updates

Ms. Myers said that the last meeting focused on youth mental health resources; Dublin City Schools came to the meeting to speak about the topic.

New Business

Chair Malik said that the New Americans Book Fair event was a huge success and was appreciative to all involved, especially the Dublin Library branch. Between 300-400 people were in attendance.

He continued with an announcement that there is an Interfaith Conference scheduled in Dublin on November 3 – 4, with several faiths standing shoulder to shoulder.

Chair Malik reminded the group that Diwali is on November 4; the FIA and other Indian communities are hosting a ticketed event in central Ohio.

He continued by saying that World Cup Cricket is coming up, so expect "Cricket fever" in the community with a lot of energy.

Community Inclusion Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2023

Page 6 of 6

Chair Malik mentioned that the Dublin City Schools Levy is upon us and asked if it was OK to discuss at a C.I.A.C. meeting. Ms. Nardecchia suggested watching last night's City Council meeting video (September 25), as Superintendent Dr. John Marschhausen gave a presentation on the levy. Vice Chair Lombardo said the only intersection she saw with C.I.A.C. issues would be housing, but even then, this may not be the right forum.

Chair Malik offered congratulations to Officer Scott Brown was honored with the Diversity Leader Award for work he has been doing in diversity, equity and inclusion. The award was given by the Asian American Commerce Group.

SpectrumTV reached out to Chair Malik to create a "Muslim Voices of Ohio" piece. The series will be aired all year long, and he suggested doing the video recording with Spectrum on the Dublin Link Bridge. He will let the City know if that happens.

Ms. Kilty mentioned that next week was Active Aging Week with many offerings at the Dublin Community Recreation Center and encouraged everyone to explore the week's activities.

Adjourn

Being no further new business or announcements, Ms. Aldemir made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Lombardo. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.


Imran Malik, Chair
Christine Nardecchia, Director
Outreach & Engagement