



## MEETING MINUTES

### COMMUNITY INCLUSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Tuesday, June 24, 2025**

#### CALL TO ORDER

Imran Malik, Chair, called the Tuesday, June 24, 2025 Community Inclusion Advisory Committee (CIAC) meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. in Council Chamber, 5555 Perimeter Drive.

#### ROLL CALL

Members Present: Imran Malik, Ming Yu, Ingrid Fields, Kristine Aldemir

Members Absent: Crystal Maiuri

Staff Present: Christine Nardecchia, Shannon Maurer, Sara Esala, Rebecca Myers

#### Approval of Minutes

Chair Malik inquired if there were any corrections to the April 29, 2025 CIAC minutes. [No corrections were requested.]

Ms. Aldemir moved, Ms. Fields seconded approval of the meeting minutes.

Vote: Ms. Yu, yes; Mr. Malik, yes; Ms. Fields, yes; Ms. Aldemir, yes.

[Motion approved 4-0]

Chair Malik welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Chair Malik moved, Ms. Fields seconded rescheduling the election of Chair and Vice Chair to the August CIAC meeting agenda, when all members are anticipated to be present.

Vote: Ms. Aldemir, yes; Ms. Yu, yes; Ms. Fields, yes; Mr. Malik, yes.

[Motion carried 4-0.]

Chair Malik noted that with the recent appointment of new board, commission and committee members, no candidates were available for the CIAC seats left empty when previous members' terms expired. Therefore, City Council office will continue to accept any applications submitted for the available CIAC positions. City Council has the flexibility to make additional appointments throughout the year.

#### Public Comments

There were no public comments.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **CIAC Member Recruitment**

Mr. Malik encouraged members to contact community members they believe could be recruited to apply for a seat on the CIAC committee. There is no specific criteria.

Ms. Nardecchia stated that the only criteria is that they must be Dublin residents, be age 18 or older and a registered voter. The intent is that the committee be representative of Dublin's diverse community. If current members are aware of any community members who might be interested in applying, encourage them to follow up with the Clerk of Council's office. For their use, she will be sending them a link to share with interested individuals to apply and also a link to the description of CIAC and its responsibilities. CIAC members should feel free to inform any interested community members about the CIAC members' roles – what their concerns are and how they advise Council.

Mr. Malik inquired if it would be possible for Council to make appointments before CIAC's August meeting.

Ms. Nardecchia responded that it could probably not occur by August. Council is on recess for the month of July.

- **Outreach and Engagement Team**

Ms. Nardecchia introduced her team, Shannon Maurer, Volunteer Coordinator and Sara Esala, Outreach & Engagement Coordinator. She read a description of Outreach and Engagement's mission. Its mission is to provide meaningful, inclusive community engagement through innovative service opportunities that support and enhance City services through Dublin's quality of life. We have a vision of being a national model for engaging citizens in meaningful and effective community and government involvement. For 25 years, we have focused on the core values of belonging, engaging, enriching, being outstanding, emphasizing learning, developing special connections with youth, supporting City services and connecting Dublin businesses to the community to increase their role in corporate citizenship and potential long-term commitment in Dublin. Her team will present an overview of their day-to-day work.

Ms. Maurer stated that their philosophy of volunteerism in the City is a learn, serve and engage philosophy. We want all our volunteers to recognize the impact of what they are doing. She showed photos of volunteers at the Citizens University and their Juneteenth open house at the Brown Cemetery. In their department, they work to build relationships with different partners and individual volunteers. They help the City's Communication team by collecting information from residents who might be interested in sharing information about their culture or religion in a social media post or perhaps in conjunction with a bridge lighting or a video at our City's Culture Corner. Volunteers work at the JASCO event. Volunteers also work with many faith organizations and plan to bring a number of religious and non-profit groups together in the fall to discuss ways we can support and connect with one another.

Ms. Esala shared a description of the Culture Corner program, which is housed at the Dublin Community Recreation Center. The program was started in 2018 and involves many different groups, including school and religious groups. The intent is to highlight the diverse demographic in Dublin. It is an opportunity to educate the community on the holidays of various cultures. Their team engages volunteerism of all ages.



Ms. Maurer stated that the Teen Buddy program is an intergenerational service program that pairs older adults with teenagers to form relationships. Many of the relationships become long lasting. The program was suggested by a Dublin Jerome teenager concerned about the effect of isolation on older adults during the pandemic. It ended up being a mutually beneficial connection for teens and older adults. Volunteers for our various programs range from age 5 to age 96. We have volunteer opportunities for all ages and all abilities. She reviewed various outreach efforts for people of all abilities, such as the sensory tent at the Dublin Irish Festival and sensory-friendly packs for patrons. Accessibility seating areas are provided at the July 4 and St. Patrick's Day parades, which are supported by volunteers.

Ms. Esala stated that their department also supports Dublin residents with language resources. Translation services are offered at all City reception desks. There are iPads with software enabling City staff to engage live translators for patrons to help them communicate and navigate City services. Their department maintains an updated list of agencies that offer English as another language. They also have language bank volunteers who are available to provide translation services. This year, we offered Japanese language tours at the Ferris Wright Park and Earthworks. She offered other examples of events where language support is offered. The department also helped with citizenship resources. We've worked with local refugee immigration services and with courts and immigration services to provide a naturalization ceremony. This past year, approximately 100 new U.S. citizens were naturalized. Our volunteers supported that activity. Another program our department facilitates is the MLK civic service series and the MLK Sunday Supper. They work with other organizations around Dublin to provide these services and events. She reviewed a number of services, programs and shared a case study of meaningful volunteerism.

Ms. Fields inquired if residents have expressed a need for any services not yet provided.  
Ms. Maurer stated that they would like to expand the Culture Corner offerings.

Ms. Esala stated that sometimes people are not aware of the expanse of the available opportunities. We have about 200 volunteer programs in the City. There may already be an opportunity with which we can engage them.

Ms. Maurer stated that she interviews everyone who approaches the City with an interest in becoming involved with the City's ongoing volunteer program. There are a vast list of opportunities, and she tries to match people based on their interests and skillset.

Ms. Nardecchia stated that one of the benefits of volunteering is that it fosters a sense of belonging for the volunteers. People develop a sense of home and civic responsibility.

Mr. Malik inquired about the level of volunteerism with sports activities.

Ms. Nardecchia stated that that Dublin has many non-profit organizations that lead efforts related to sports, such as Dublin Youth Athletics (DYA), Dublin Soccer League and Dublin Football League. Those tend to be heavily parent-based and parent-supported. Volunteers are not needed because the community takes care of this effort.

Mr. Malik inquired about current ESL (English as a second language) class availability.

Ms. Esala stated that Columbus Library has partnered with the Columbus Literacy Council, and they offer ESL classes and sponsor conversation groups. There are also a number of churches that offer a variety of classes or conversation groups as opportunities to learning English. Although FESTA left the community, she has heard that they are interested in coming back if funding can be identified.



Ms. Nardecchia noted that FESTA is a 3-generation ESL program. They are currently in Hilliard and are interested in coming back to Dublin. Presently, however, our faith community is meeting the need.

Ms. Aldemir stated that she is aware of retired English teachers who would like to volunteer in this way. However, they do not know who to contact.

Ms. Esala stated that she would be happy to help them with connections. The Library has a list of ESL resources/contacts.

Ms. Aldemir stated that OSU offers many community programs and workshops free to the community. They do not know how to make the public aware of those opportunities, however. Should it be shared with City Outreach and Engagement?

Ms. Esala suggested that she share the contact information with her and she would look into the option and attempt to resource them correctly.

- **Media and Marketing**

Rebecca Myers, Public Information Officer, shared ways in which her department has responded to the DEI strategic framework goal over the years. Everything is about communications. They focus on how to make people feel heard and seen within the community. On her team, there are 8 staff members and 2 interns. One of their efforts that falls under Priority Area 2 concerns releasing official City statements, materials and digital content in several languages. She shared a video of how the City's interpretation services work. In addition, at the City's website, there is a plugin translator; it is built into the website. The GoDublin text messaging is a new service. She encourages committee members to sign up. You can select the type of information that you would like to receive via a text message from the City and receive related messages in your preferred language.

Ms. Nardecchia stated that the GoDublin app is a resource through which many different City services can be requested.

Ms. Myers stated that WeChat is an app that the City uses to share information with our Chinese-speaking community. We incorporate WeChat into all our communication plans. She inquired what resources committee members use for their communication needs.

Committee members shared their use of the following apps for communication: Viper, Skye, Facebook, Instagram, Facebook, TikTok and LinkedIn.

Ms. Myers stated that the City seeks opportunities to amplify voice and community through official City of Dublin content, such as Dublin News Now and social media messaging. She described the recent MyDublin video series, which is providing a way to amplify our diverse Dublin voices. She has worked with Outreach & Engagement to connect with volunteers who have many different traditions they can share via this video series. These videos can be accessed via YouTube.

Ms. Myers stated that the Dublin Link Bridge is used to celebrate many aspects of the City and to build community spirit. The City website has a list of events that will be recognized throughout the year via bridge lighting. Bridge lighting is used to visually demonstrate our support and promote awareness of different initiatives that affect our community.

Mr. Malik inquired if the list of requests for bridge lighting for different initiatives is overwhelming.

Ms. Myers responded that the City receives many health-related initiatives about which people want to raise awareness. On average, we have 4-5 bridge lightings each month. The number is



manageable, however. The City is looking at ways to post signage near The Link that would share what event or initiative the bridge lighting concerns.

Mr. Malik inquired if the City monitors the traffic on its social media pages.

Ms. Myers stated that her colleague Shirley Blaine serves as a multi-media strategist. She reports the level of engagement to their team. Our cultural recognitions far exceed all other posts. Social media is used for community building.

Ms. Nardecchia stated that this group has discussed previously the City's event permit process. CIAC members have been helpful in spreading the word to your community peers regarding the need to apply for an event permit. Additionally, every month, a City Manager's Report is uploaded at the City's website. It is very informative. It includes an update on the communication strategy metrics, as well as every department's activities and the delivery on strategic priorities of City Council.

## **STAFF COMMENTS**

### **• Inclusion Updates**

Ms. Nardecchia shared a report of outreach efforts that have occurred since the committee's last meeting or are upcoming.

- National Day of Prayer, May 1.
- Community Service Day, May 3, hosted by Dublin Chamber of Commerce, serves older adults with outdoor cleanup projects.
- May – Older Adults Awareness Month. Committee member Ms. Fields permitted her photograph to be used on the City's Forever Dublin website.
- Naturalization Ceremony - May 8. 100 petitioners were sworn in as U.S. citizens. Former CIAC member Isao Shoji was the guest speaker.
- Memorial Day Service, in honor of our veterans
- Eyes of Freedom, an art display featuring the Lima Company, was on display Memorial Day week. This display was facilitated by the City's partnership with Dublin Arts Council.
- International Day of Yoga, June 21, featuring an event at Riverside Crossing Park.
- A Community Open House, June 19, led by Heritage interpreters, was held at the Brown-Harris Cemetery
- June – October, Heritage interpreters will facilitate tours at Thaddeus Kosciuszko Park.
- November 1-2, Heritage interpreters will facilitate tours at Ferris Wright Earthworks Park.
- The Asian American Coalition of Ohio (AACO) is hosting an internship at Jerome High School; the exchange student will also be participating in Dublin's Citizens University JumpStart.
- Various Dublin Link Bridge lighting events

Ms. Nardecchia stated that the City has posted an open position for an adaptive recreation coordinator. The position reflects the City's commitment to inclusive recreation services.

Ms. Nardecchia encouraged committee members to complete a survey regarding the Dublin Signature Trail. The trail is envisioned in the City's Envision Dublin Community Plan. The intent is to provide a connected east-west experience for pedestrians and cyclists. She will send members a link to the survey.

### **• Upcoming Events of Note**

Chair Malik reminded members of the following upcoming events:

- New American Magazine Annual Event, Columbus library, Saturday, September 20
- Upcoming Spectrum series re. Dialogue of Faith Groups
- Independence Day for Pakistan and India – August 14-15
- Somali Independence Day, end of September
- U.S. July 4 celebration
- Worthington Interfaith Neighbors – Annual Cultural Day, August 17 at the Park of Roses

Chair Malik stated that he was born in Pakistan and grew up witnessing the Iran-Iraq War in the 1980s and the Gulf War in 1990-91. Today, the area is experiencing unrest again. He requested a moment of silence for members to say a prayer for peace and for safety for the civilians and our men/women in uniform. Bahrain is the U.S.'s largest marine base. There are currently 9,000 marines stationed in Bahrain. [Moment of silence/prayer observed.]

### **Adjournment**

Chair Malik adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m.



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Imran Malik, Chair



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Judith K. Beal  
Assistant Clerk of Council