

MINUTES

Belonging Equity & Inclusion Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 13th, 2022 6:30 - 8:00 PM

St. Albans City Hall and VIA Zoom

Board members present: Leah Christopher (Chair); Reier Erickson (Vice Chair); Preston Fuller; Reese Kelly; Mareesa Miles; Eliana Castro (Via Zoom); Clark Sheldon

1. Call to Order

Leah Christopher called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

2. Land Acknowledgement - Reier Erickson

Reier Erickson delivered the land acknowledgement.

3. Agenda Introduction & Review

Leah Christopher introduced the meeting agenda.

4. Public Comment on Agenda/Non-Agenda Items (limit 2 minutes per person)

No comment.

5. Consider approval of August 9, 2022 Minutes (D&V)

Mareesa Miles motioned to approve August minutes.

Preston Fuller seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Executive Session

a. The Committee finds that premature disclosure of discussion around matters related to litigation would compromise the City or person(s) involved (D&V)

b. The Committee moves to enter Executive Session for purposes of discussing a matter related to litigation (D&V)

Reier Erickson motioned to enter executive session.

Preston Fuller seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

7. Declaration of Inclusion (D&V)

Reier Erickson shared ideas for slight changes of wording and read the declaration. Clark Sheldon asked for some clarification on the declaration's approach to disability. Reier Erickson read the section that spoke on it.

Reese Kelly added that he didn't hear sexual orientation included in the declaration, and that he would like to see that added.

Reier Erickson brought up the question of how the declaration would be implemented. The Committee discussed the ways explicit vs. implicit bias could be present in the adoption of

the declaration.

Preston Fuller suggested including respect of religion and non-religion in the declaration. Mareesa suggested marking the declaration as a living document, allowing it to be edited and added on to.

Reier Erickson suggested setting up a time to meet with the City Council to discuss the declaration.

Reese Kelly requested to add citizenship status to the declaration, as well as a broad statement to include any other marginalized identities. Eliana Castro agreed but suggested keeping the language from being too broad.

Reese Kelly motioned to approve reviewing and voting on the declaration as discussed, with the Committee being sent a final copy, which would reflect the edits as discussed during the meeting.

Seconded by Eliana Castro
Motion passed unanimously.

Reier Erickson agreed to send the revised version to the Committee for final review, prior to the document being finalized and sent to Leah Christopher, who will then forward the document to the City Manager.

The Committee voted unanimously to approve the above plan.

8. Statement to the City (D&V)

Reese Kelly introduced the statement to the City that he has prepared. It outlines the Committee's opinions and suggestions for the future.

Reier Erickson and Reese Kelly lead a discussion on the best way to foster a more collaborative relationship between the Committee and the City. The Committee considered various ideas for phrasing and content, and ultimately decided to have Reese finalize it, adding a closing paragraph. The document will be sent to the Committee for final review, prior to being finalized and sent to Leah Christopher for distribution to the City Manager and Mayor.

Reier Erickson motioned to accept the letter after edits provided by Reese Kelly.

Clark Sheldon seconded.
Motion passed unanimously.

9. September 13, 2022 BEI Committee Agenda Items

Future potential agenda items:

- Goal-setting, benchmarks & measurements of success
 - Preselection of individuals available for weekday daytime engagement (participating in the City's hiring process related to a position, etc.)
 - How would the BEI Committee like to contribute to the City's hiring process? •
 - How might the land acknowledgement statement be further integrated in the City? •
- Channel 15 Northwest Access

- SAPD autism and other patches – what would the Committee like its role to be, if any?

10. Adjourn

Leah Christopher adjourned the meeting at 8:17 pm.

Next meeting will be held at 6:30 pm on October 11th.