

Madeira Inclusion Committee

Meeting Summary

June 3, 2021 – 7:00PM

Committee Members in Attendance: Susan Kissel (Chair), Patrick Dingeldein, David McCoy, David Meredith, David Walsh, Jodi Witted, Kevin Kingman, Maria Schwaller, Sandy Gemmel, Shawn Batlivala, Stephanie Lanzerotti, and Emma Faz

City Staff in Attendance: Lori Thompson, Assistant City Manager

Ms. Kissel called the meeting to order at 7:00PM and reviewed the agenda.

- City Council Report
- Pride Picnic Planning
- Sub-Committee Assignments

City Council Report – Ms. Thompson provided a summary of the actions taken by City Council at the May 24, 2021 meeting. Highlights included:

- Council approved a resolution for the Independence Day Celebration fireworks.
- Council held the Public Hearing/2nd Reading on the Zoning Code amendment.
- Council held the 1st Reading on a re-zoning for lot 8 on Treetops Lane.
- Council held the 1st Reading on accepting the annexation of 1.6 acres from Columbia Township (half of the property is currently in Madeira and the other half in Columbia Twp)
- Council passed a resolution to purchase property for public right-of-way for the Euclid Ave project.
- The senior Community Room at Traditions has re-opened as of June 2nd.

Pride Picnic Planning – Ms. Whitted provided an update on the planning for the Pride Picnic.

Ms. Gemmel gave an overview of plans for the contents of the take home bag/kit. The committee discussed what should be included in the “swag bag” and if items from other organizations should be added. The committee decided that 100 bags should be ordered.

Discussion was held on the pros and cons of having a dunk tank at the event. Concerns included cost and monitoring the tank when it is not in use (safety and liability). Mr. Meredith suggested an Ice Bucket Challenge – the “winner” has the bucket dumped on them. The committee liked that idea.

The committee also discussed making the ice bucket challenge a fund raiser and to donate the proceeds to an LGBTQ+ organization. Three organizations were suggested – Lighthouse Youth Services, Living with Change, and GLSEN. After discussion, the committee decided CLSEN would be a good choice.

Ms. Faz asked about volunteers for the event. She offered that her Social Justice Club may be a source of volunteers; she will ask the membership. The event sub-committee will discuss volunteer coordination at their next meeting, but in the meantime, interested people should email Ms. Whitted at her city email address.

Mr. Walsh pointed out that as events are planned to utilize print advertising as well as electronic. This increases the visibility of the event to those without computer access (i.e., senior residents).

Sub Committee Assignments –

Baseline and Methods: Maria Schwaller, Missy Rane, Shawn Batlivala, Stephanie Lanzerotti

Identify methods to increase diversity, not limited to race, on City boards and commission (parks and rec, senior commission, planning commission, board of zoning appeals, historic preservation, civil service, income tax review, public records)
-city boards and commission would be representative of the community in terms of race, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ability, etc.

Identify what problems residents feel we have with inclusion and develop methods for addressing these problems

Events and Spaces: Jodi Whitted, Sandy Gemmel, Tom Kent, David Meredith, Emma Faz

Identify challenges that deter inclusion for non-residents working or visiting
-we generate a comprehensive list of barriers to inclusions are identified in local businesses, restaurants, stores, parks, etc.

Assess our events and spaces for inclusion and make recommendations for increasing access to our events and spaces

Communication and Connection: David Walsh, Kevin Kingman, Patrick Dingeldein, Susan Kissel

Be a voice for residents for opportunities to drive better inclusive practices.
-community members feel heard, acknowledged, and valued via improved communication flow with their recommendations for improved inclusion practices

Assess and improve the inclusivity of our communication and connections we can aid in building in our community.

Mr. Meredith asked what the expectations are of the sub-committees prior to the next meeting. Ms. Kissel indicated that the sub-committees should meet at least one time by the next meeting, assign a chairperson, and identify some goals and objective for the category.

Miscellaneous:

The committee asked for an update on the hiring of a new police officer. Ms. Thompson reported that interviews with the final candidates are being scheduled.

The meeting was adjourned 7:57 PM

Susan Kissel, Chair