

**CITY OF EDMONDS
DIVERSITY COMMISSION
February 3, 2016**

Chair Mario Brown called the Diversity Commission meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at 121 5th Ave N, Edmonds, WA.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Gayle Ketzler
Ed Dorame – Vice Chair
Diana White
Adam Khan
Mario Brown - Chair
Maria Montalvo
Adrienne Fraley-Monillas, Councilmember

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT

Dave Teitzel, Councilmember

STAFF PRESENT

Patrick Doherty, *ED/CS Director*
Michele Rastovich, *Diversity Commission
Coordinator*

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Patricia Valle
Tung Bui
George Basioli

ALSO PRESENT

Eben Pobe

1. **Roll Call:** Call to order at 6:00p.m. with an announcement that actual start time would be delayed for five minutes to accommodate being in a new location.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Approved as amended to include a discussion of permanent meeting location.
3. **Approval of January 6, 2016 Diversity Commission Meeting Summary:** The meeting summary was approved as written.
4. **Public Comment:** Dave Teitzel, Councilmember, introduced Eben Pobe, originally from Ghana. Eben would welcome opportunities to partner and briefly described the work of JHP Cultural and Diversity Legacy to build community and cultural understanding through music.
5. **Report from City:** Patrick congratulated Ed on doing a “stellar job” of presenting the Commission’s 2016 Workplan to City Council on January 26. The plan was unanimously approved, and Patrick noted the meeting was a “love fest”. Councilperson Fraley-Monillas gave the plan a “Bravo” and Councilperson Mesaros called it a “very ambitious plan”. Tui and Pat were thanked for attending on behalf of the Commission. Patrick also briefly discussed updating the Diversity webpage on the City’s website. Staff will work on a template for Commissioners to use in submitting their bios.
6. **Community Outreach: Partnering Opportunity:** Diana reported that she has been approached by several organizations interested in partnering with the Commission, including

United Methodist, interested in co-sponsoring a forum on race for students, Families of Color United in Service (FOCUS), Edmonds School District, NAACP, and Eben Pobe. The Snohomish County Human Rights Commission was also mentioned as a likely partner. Discussion ensued regarding the desire “to do something” and the importance of bringing partners together to find common ground and to consider how to create something bigger together. It was agreed that Mario, Gayle, Diana, Maria, and Michele will work on a plan to bring in stakeholders from various organizations and constituencies to determine how to work together and/or plan event(s).

Other discussion items included: encouragement by Councilmember Fraley-Monillas to reach out to non-English speakers, especially those living along Hiway 99; request for staff to provide examples of other Diversity Commission workplans; and the City’s process for determining the inclusion of diversity questions in a city wide survey. Staff will forward Eben’s YouTube links.

7. **Community Incidents: Develop Protocol for Quick Response:** Mario reminded the Commission about our desire to be able to respond quickly to community incidents. Discussion included not wanting to be “reactionary” or acting like the “diversity police”; noting that the public does not always have all the facts; showing support for victims; the desire to promote the feeling of safety; finding the balance between “getting the word out”, but not judging immediately; and authorizing a response subcommittee. The group settled on adopting some standard language that staff could use to create a Facebook posting from the Diversity Commission regarding such incidents, encouraging the community to reflect on the incident, engage in dialogue, and/or share their concerns and perspective with the Diversity Commission. Patrick will offer some draft language at the March meeting.
8. **Community Engagement: How to Acknowledge Religious and Cultural Observances:** Michele reminded Commissioners about “reserving” the observances they might like to highlight on the City’s Facebook page or the Diversity Commission’s webpage. It was noted that just putting a comment on Facebook is not enough. We also need to consider how to promote the webpage and how to steer traffic to it.
9. **Retreat Planning:** Discussion centered around how to schedule a retreat, preferred outcomes of a retreat, and our obligations around public meetings. There was no clear preference for a time and day. Some prefer a Friday or Saturday and some prefer mid-week. Those indicating a Friday or Saturday preference did indicate that with enough notice, they could make mid-week work. Concern was expressed that the desire to “get to know each other better” while in a public meeting will take careful planning. It was agreed that Michele will work with Ed and Adam to do some preliminary planning and determine if a four block, an extended regular meeting or some kind of hybrid will work best.
10. **Report of Edmonds School District:** Diana briefed the Commission on the latest demographics of the District as compared to those of the District’s catchment area, and on the District’s many inclusion and diversity initiatives. Since there was little time for questions, the Commission may like to revisit this topic in the future.
11. **Regular Meeting Space:** Patrick reviewed the challenges and options for securing a regular meeting space. It was agreed to keep the meetings on the first Wednesday of the month and to pursue the Senior Center option. Patrick will reconfirm and notify the Commission.

12. **Community Updates:** Maria reported that she followed up with Community Transit regarding George's comments last month to confirm the policy about stopping at bus stops. She will get clarification from George.
13. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:37pm. The next meeting is March 2, 2016, 6PM