

**CITY OF EDMONDS  
DIVERSITY COMMISSION  
April 6, 2016**

The Diversity Commission meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mario Brown at 220 Railroad Avenue, Edmonds.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Gayle Ketzler  
Ed Dorame – Vice Chair  
Patricia Valle  
Tung Bui  
George Basioli  
Adam Khan  
Mario Brown - Chair  
Councilmember Adrienne Fraley-Monillas,  
*ex officio*

**ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Tom Mesaros, Councilmember  
Dave Teitzel, Councilmember  
Kristiana Johnson, Council President  
Mike Nelson, Councilmember

**STAFF PRESENT**

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

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

Diana White  
Maria Montalvo

1. **Roll Call:** Call to order at 6 p.m.
2. **Welcome by Chair:** Mario introduced the Commission and staff, gave brief history of the Diversity Commission; asked guests to introduce themselves briefly first, and then speak about their organization during presentation portion of agenda.
3. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as submitted.
4. **Diversity Forum Presentations:**  
**Dean Olson**, Washington State Communication Access Project: working on providing reader boards and captioning in public venues, and closed captioning in theaters; captions on screens assists both hearing impaired and non-English speakers.  
**David Bayless**, GLOBE, representing programs for LGBTQ youth: provides resources for support and encouragement in a safe environment; recommends broadening gay-friendly businesses and community buildings; just inviting presentations helps to increase community awareness of Edmonds' work to be more inclusive.  
**Steve Bernheim**, Community member: Discussed objectionable/inappropriate e-mails regarding immigrants that have been circulating locally and is surprised by lack of compassion.

**Dr. Janice Greene**, President NAACP: oldest civil rights advocacy group in existence advocates for civil rights for all; civil rights are not just an African American issue; seeing increase in issue impacting communities of color in the last three to four years, including bullying, unemployment, and rentals/housing market discrimination; working on graduation rates and poverty rates, because “that’s where the hurt is”.

**Dr. Anthony de Sam Lazaro**, Community member, Engineering Professor: 1<sup>st</sup> generation immigrant, willing to discuss his experiences with the Commission; recommends more opportunities for people to talk to each other, hear each other’s stories; and determine needs in the community.

**Erin Monroe**, CEO, Workforce Snohomish County: provides employment, education, and ancillary services; assist unemployed and under employed in preparing to enter the workforce; partners with nonprofits, government agencies, and private sector; part of their work includes increasing the willingness of local employers to employ people with barriers; would like to work with Commission to increase community participation in a “solution committees”.

**Jim House**, Hearing, Speech, & Deafness Center: one in five Americans have some degree of hearing loss; organization provides wide range of help to hearing impaired.

**Kristiana Johnson**, Edmonds City Council President: announced April 15 event – the Governor’s Race and Equity Summit, Cascadia College in Bothell; also noted that City Council Chambers has been upgraded to provide better service for hearing impaired.

**Michele Domingo**, Edmonds Community College, Equity & Inclusion Director; student engagement and inclusion is the focus; looks forward to exploring partnership with Diversity Commission

**Daniel VanArsdale**, Families of Color United in Service (FOCUS): non-profit organization creates opportunities for families of color to engage, especially with the Edmonds School District.

**Ferrill Fleming**, Edmonds Senior Center: can provide assistance in identifying partners; provides an environment to welcome diversity for the community.

**Nora Karena**, YWCA: key area of service is empowerment of women; equity and inclusion are the foundation of all services; would like to see more diverse representation on boards.

**Sandra Williams**, Chamber of Commerce: very committed to building partnerships and interested in learning from the Commission regarding increasing inclusive Chamber events.

5. **Comments:** Kristiana Johnson, City Council President, encouraged the Commission to consider recruiting a student representative. Adrienne Fraley-Monillas, Edmonds City Council, noted the dramatic changes in population along the Highway 99 corridor in the last ten years. Michele will contact presenters to add a contact for the Diversity Commission to their mailing lists.
6. **Approval of March 6, 2016 Diversity Commission Meeting Summary:** Meeting Summary was approved as submitted.
7. **Report from City:** Agenda for work session on April 20 was briefly discussed. Tung will take the lead in developing the plan for participation in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. A calendar based on the work plan will be developed.
8. **Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at 8PM.  
Work session meeting April 20, 6:00-8:00PM  
Next regular meeting May 4, 6:00-7:30PM