

Minutes of Meeting of Orange Village Committee on Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (“REDI”)

December 9, 2021

Present: Councilman Jud Kline, Chair; Marina Vladova; Sarah Partington; Dr. Faith Durden (joined at 7:23 pm); Delores Momon (7:51 pm)

Absent: Dr. Kenneth Bindas; Louis Burroughs; Marlene Burroughs; Helen Fineberg; Jennifer Gold; Jason Hill; Rochelle Klein; Scott Lewis; Nanci Stein; Daniel Sumer; Gwen Walsh; Angela Ugran; Elizabeth (Liz) Rich

Guest: Anastasia Nichols – *Chagrin Valley Times*

Called to order at 7:11 pm

A regular meeting of the Orange Village Committee on Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (“REDI” or the “Committee”) was held via Zoom on Monday, December 9, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Councilman Jud Kline at 7:11 p.m.

Mr. Kline noted that the “open meeting” notice and disclaimer had been posted and minutes of all Committee meeting were available for inspection after approval. Mr. Kline deferred approval of the November 9, 2021 minutes due to a lack of quorum.

Mr. Kline opened the meeting discussing the Committee’s restructuring. Originally the Committee consisted of a group of individuals appointed to the Committee by Council with the expectation that members would act as an advisory body and present ideas/suggestions to Council. Additionally, the Committee established a working group to provide an opportunity for others to participate in a less public manner, generate ideas and advise the Committee.

During the restructuring, the Committee transitioned to including all members, Committee and Working Group, are part of the Committee. Mr. Kline reiterated the Committee’s principles, which the Committee will revisit at the start of each meeting.

Mr. Kline provided an update on the recent creation of a Moreland Hills Diversity and Inclusion Commission. Moreland Hills established the Commission as a non-legislative advisory body “to celebrate diversity, study systemic bias and discrimination, educate residents and provide advice and recommendations to Council on understanding and seeking to eliminate the impacts of racism, including implicit bias, and on advancing equity, inclusion, fairness and social justice within Moreland Hills.” Mr. Kline discussed the potential opportunities to collaborate with Moreland Hills to develop a shared community understanding of social justice and racial equity.

The Committee transitioned into a discussion of the REDI goals, and an assessment of the Committee's work collected via survey administered to the Committee members. Dr. Durden collected the responses and distilled down to concise statements. Dr. Durden and Mr. Kline lead a discussion on the survey results, including the use of a facilitator. Ms. Vladova shared that she had spoken with colleagues serving on similar community groups and they offered recommendations for potential facilitators. The Committee requested Ms. Vladova contact two potential facilitators for additional information. Dr. Durden raised the issue of how Orange citizens can best utilize our gifts and talents. The Committee deferred the issue for a later time as we will need to assess topics, including the role the Committee plays in advising the Village and the development of a common language.

The final discussion involved the composition of the Committee. Mr. Kline explained that the Village solicited interested parties in a variety of methods – social media, village newsletters, personnel outreach. The Committee discussed how to best assess membership and members were encouraged to invite neighbors to join the Committee. Additionally, Mr. Kline will circulate a survey to members asking if they intend to continue on the Committee in 2022 and provide availability.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The next Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, January 13, 2022. All meetings will be held via Zoom until such time as Council resumes in-person meetings.

Respectfully submitted, Sarah
Partington
Recording Secretary