

**MINUTES OF THE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING**

ELK GROVE CITY HALL  
Conducted Virtually on Zoom

Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:**

The Diversity and Inclusion Commission meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM

Members present: R. Ashok Shankar, Ph.D.; Bhavin K. Parikh, MD; Jessica Carter; Jinky Dolar; Rev. Dr. Raymond Hess; Mohinder Singh; Gurjatinder Rhandawa, Kristofer Tan

Staff:

Kristyn Laurence, City of Elk Grove Public Affairs Manager  
Hanna Gray, Elk Grove Police Department PIO

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Reverend Hess motioned to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Jinky and approved unanimously

**3. APPROVAL OF PAST MEETING MINUTES:**

Reverend Hess motioned to approve the meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Dr. Shankar and approved unanimously

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:**

N/A

**5. GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE:**

- Kristyn – City Council will recognize Scott Matsumoto for his contributions to the MCC and Diversity and Inclusion Commission during its regular meeting on January 27, 2021. Commissioners are welcome to join the meeting
- Kristyn – The deadline to fill Scott's seat is February 17, 2021 Applications are available online. The Mayor will recommend, and the City Council will approve the candidate to fill Scott's seat

**6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/REPORTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- Jinky –

- Discussed possibility of recommending a Hmong woman for Scott's seat and then the discussion expanded to recommending a woman in general to replace him
- Will seek qualified Hmong women and encourage them to apply
- The Commission made the correct decision to cancel last year's Lunar New Year event given the data on the virus spread
- Chinese Lunar New Year begins February 12 and Vietnamese New Year begins a week later. Celebration traditions and rituals are very different between the two Asian communities. Asked if the Commission could organize some form of Lunar New Year Celebration. The City no longer sponsors such cultural events/celebrations but will support them if an organizational partner can put together the event. Possibility of doing something during the NeighborGood Market at District 56 on February 11. The Commission voted to support Jinky's efforts.
- Bhavin –
  - Led the tributes to acknowledge Scott for all his contributions to the MCC and Diversity and Inclusion Commission
  - Noted that area activities to honor Dr. Martin Luther King appear to have been successful without any reported incidents
  - Offered condolences to Sacramento County Deputy and a K9 killed in shooting

## **7. REGULAR AGENDA ACTION ITEMS/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

### **7.1 SUBJECT: Reorganization of the Diversity & Inclusion Commission**

#### **COMMISSION DISCUSSION/ACTION:**

- Bhavin – discussed the office terms for Chair and Vice Chair were not sufficient for the Officers to learn their roles and effectively and efficiently move their agendas. Recommended changing terms from 1 year to 2 years  
Motion to approve Chair and Vice Chair continuing their term of office for one more year approved unanimously

### **7.2 SUBJECT: No Place for Hate Update (Standing Item)**

#### **COMMISSION DISCUSSION/ACTION:**

- Bhavin noted the need for the Commission to offer a statement addressing the current divide in Elk Grove. Kristyn reminded the Commission of the negative reaction to the Commission's holiday message and noted the City would strongly advise the Commission to refrain from such postings for the time being. Jinky noted the current divide can be traced back to the recent mayoral campaign and felt our hands are tied from offering a public statement. Dr. Shankar suggested the Commission invite the Mayor and City Council to a meeting to explore ways the Commission may respond to the current divide. Kristyn will consult with Kara for response recommendations.

Jessica suggested a Special Meeting may be useful to address the issue immediately. Kristyn will consult with Kara for response recommendations.

**8. ADJOURNMENT:**

Jessica motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jinky, approved through consensus at 7:35PM