



# Leesburg Diversity Commission Special Meeting

**Wednesday, September 15, 2021 • 7:00 p.m.**  
**Lower Level Conference Room 1**  
**Leesburg Town Hall • 25 West Market Street**

## Meeting Agenda

- Call to Order
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Meeting Minutes
  - Minutes of August 4, 2021 Meeting
- Petitioners
- Commissioner Comments
- Liaison Reports
  - Economic Development Commission
  - Commission on Public Art
- Staff Reports
- Chair Comments
- Council Member Comments
- Old Business
  - Commission Logo Design
  - Minority-Owned Business Outreach Update
  - Community Resources Database
  - Commission Goals & Strategies
- Old Business
  - Halloween Parade Participation
  - Potters Field Commemoration (joint effort with COPA and TBLAC)
- Adjournment

**Leesburg Diversity Commission  
August 4, 2021  
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**Location:** Leesburg Town Hall, Lower Level Conference Room 1

**Commissioners Present:** Devon Carter  
Dana Kunzelman (via Webex)  
Vanessa Maddox  
Linda McCray  
Jean-Joseph Poisson  
Mary Randolph

**Commissioners Absent:** Jasmin Martinez-Harris

**Others Present:** Vice Mayor Fernando Martinez  
Sherae Bell, the current Mrs. Leesburg

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda:**

- Commissioner Carter moved to amend the agenda by striking the 3<sup>rd</sup> item under Old Business. Commissioner Randolph seconded the motion, which passed by majority vote. The amended agenda was approved on a motion by Commissioner Randolph, seconded by Commissioner Carter.

*Vice Chair Poisson and Commissioner Kunzelman joined the meeting at 7:03 p.m.*

**Approval of Remote Participation**

- On a motion by Vice Chair Poisson, seconded by Commissioner Carter, the commission unanimously approved the remote participation by Commissioner Kunzelman.

**Approval of Minutes**

- The minutes of the July 14, 2021 regular meeting were approved unanimously as presented, on a motion by Commissioner Carter, seconded by Vice Chair Poisson.

**Petitioners**

- None

**Commissioner Comments**

- **Vice Chair Poisson** spoke about American exceptionalism.

- **Commissioner Maddox** talked her efforts to connect with other local recruiting and staffing companies in an organization called EmploymentSME, with the goal of getting 10,000 people employed or reemployed by 2024.
- **Commissioner Kunzelman commented that she** hoping to regroup on goals and action items this evening.
- **Commission Carter** commended the Town Council on the transfer of the Sycolin Cemetery to the Loudoun Freedom Center and the creation of a citizen task force on the potential need for a Police Advisory Commission. He believes that a Police Advisory Commission could increase public confidence in law enforcement and our government's ability to be proactive rather than reactive to public safety issues. He emphasized that he doesn't think creating a Police Advisory Commission signals that there is something inherently wrong with the police department.

#### **Council Member Comments**

- **Vice Mayor Martinez** thanked Commissioner Carter on his comments on the Police Advisory Commission task force. He said that his intent for a potential Police Advisory Commission is to be a facilitator between the community and the police department and will not have any responsibility or authority over HR-related issues.

He also briefed the commission on a possible partnership with Coach Bleu Colquitt and his organization, who are looking to build a community center in Leesburg. They are in discussions with our Parks & Recreation Department about the possibility of creating a "home" for the R.O.C.K. program. He emphasized that the project is still in the "dream" stage.

#### **Chair Comments**

- **Chair McCray** highlighted several dates on the August Diversity calendar, including Black Women's Equal Pay Day (August 13), International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Triade and its Abolition (August 23 ), and Women's Equality Day (August 26).

She relayed, on behalf of Commissioner Martinez-Harris, that the Commission on Public Art has invited the commission to participate in a project to recognize the people who were buried in Potters Field (near the present day Wendy's on East Market Street) and whose burials were moved to Union Cemetery in 1982. She'll send information and will put the item on the agenda for the September meeting.

#### **Old Business**

- **Commission Logo:** Commissioner Kunzelman shared preliminary commission logo designs. A work session will be scheduled to finalize a design before bringing back to the full commission.

- **Diversity Consortium:** This item was deferred to the September meeting.
- **Commission Goals and Strategies:** The commission discussed a number of action items, including:
  - Participating in the Halloween parade.
  - Working with Parks & Recreation to increase diversity of Acoustic on the Green artists.
  - Working with LCPS to explore diversity learning, maybe creating a video to capture the meaning of diversity from a child's point of view.
  - Developing a Junior DEI Coalition to involve younger Town residents.

Follow up emails will be sent, capturing individual assignments.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 7 p.m.