

**Leesburg Diversity Commission**  
**September 15, 2021**  
**Special Meeting Minutes**

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

**Commissioners Present:** Devon Carter  
Vanessa Maddox  
Jasmin Martinez-Harris  
Linda McCray  
Jean-Joseph Poisson  
Mary Randolph

**Commissioners Absent:** Dana Kunzelman

**Others Present:** None

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda:**

- Agenda was approved as presented.

**Approval of Minutes**

- The minutes of the August 3, 2021 regular meeting were approved unanimously.

**Petitioners**

- None

**Commissioner Comments**

- **Commissioner Martinez-Harris** shared a video on cultural appropriation vs appreciation, which the commission watched together:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfAp\\_G735r0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfAp_G735r0).

**Chair Comments**

- **Chair McCray** noted that Hispanic Heritage Month began that day (September 15) and runs through October 15. She asked commissioners to contribute to the diversity calendar, possibly weekly and to contribute digital images for use on social media. She also asked Vice Chair Poisson to work on a message about vaccinations.

She advised the commission of a USO contact for Afghan refugees, and proposed adding that information to the community resources spreadsheet. Commissioners agreed.

## Old Business

- **Business Outreach:** Chair McCray updated the commission on the ongoing outreach effort to minority-owned businesses, jointly with Britta Neel of the Economic Development Commission. Their next “walk about” will be on September 26 and they will be meeting at the Starbucks on East Market Street.

## New Business

- **Potter’s Fields Project:** Commissioners discussed the request from the Commission on Public Art and the Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission regarding a new marker for the “Potter’s Field” interments that were moved from the Leesburg Plaza area to Union Cemetery in the 1970s. Commissioners agreed to support the effort.
- **Junior DEI Coalition:** Commissioners discussed the development of a junior Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coalition as a way to involve younger Town residents, perhaps middle and high school students.
- **BURG Family Reunion:** Commissioners discussed the BURG Family Reunion on Saturday, September 25, and possible joint efforts with the BURG Family.
- **Halloween Parade:** Commissioners discussed logistics and design for the parade float. Chair McCray is waiting on budget approval from the Town Manager. Commissioner Carter suggested printing “Did You Know” cards to pass out along the parade route, highlighting the importance of COVID vaccinations. Commissioners agreed on four messages for the “feather” flags: Love Leesburg, United We Stand, Stronger Together, and Diversity Makes Us Stronger. Commissioner Kunzelman will work on designs. The number of flags ordered will depend on the budget authorized.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 7 p.m.