



# Leesburg Diversity Commission Regular Meeting

**Wednesday, March 8, 2023 • 7:00 p.m.**  
**Lower Level Conference Room 1**  
**Leesburg Town Hall • 25 West Market Street**

## Meeting Agenda

- Call to Order
- Approval of Electronic Participation (if necessary)
- Introduction of commissioners
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Meeting Minutes
  - Minutes of January 11, 2023 Meeting
- Petitioners
- Commissioner Comments
- Council Member Comments
- Staff Reports
  - Public Information Office
  - Police Department
- Chair Comments
- Old Business
  - MLK March (debrief)
  - Food/used book donation drive
- New Business
  - Vote on chair/vice chair
  - Board/Commission Networking Event / Draft Slideshow
  - Liaisons to COPA and EDC
  - Goals/strategies for 2023
- Adjournment

**Leesburg Diversity Commission**  
**January 11, 2023**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**

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

**Commissioners Present:** Enrique Gonzalez  
Edgard Segura  
Allison Amato  
Christine Kopp (electronically)

**Commissioners Absent:** Devon Carter  
Jasmin Martinez-Harris

**Others Present:** Sgt. Wael Abilmona, Leesburg Police Department  
Public Information Officer Kara Rodriguez, Staff Liaison

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

**Approval of Electronic Participation:**

- Electronic participation by Commissioner Kopp was approved, on a motion by Commissioner Segura, seconded by Commissioner Amato. Commissioner Kopp was not able to attend in person due to being stuck in New Orleans on work travel on the day the FAA computer systems failed.

**Introduction of Commissioners**

- Commissioners took turns introducing themselves, as it was the first meeting for Commissioner Amato, who was recently appointed for a four-year term by Council Member Cimino-Johnson. Commissioner Amato said she was very excited to be a part of the commission.

**Approval of Agenda:**

- Agenda was approved as presented, on a motion by Commissioner Segura, seconded by Commissioner Amato.

**Approval of Minutes:**

- The minutes of the December 14, 2022, regular meeting were approved as presented, on a motion by Commissioner Segura, seconded by Commissioner Kopp.

## Staff Report

- PIO Rodriguez noted that Mayor Kelly Burk had been appointed as the commission's new council liaison. She also noted that the commission still had one vacancy, with Council Member Wilt still needing to make an appointment. She suggested the commission reach out to anyone in the community who may be interested in serving to encourage them to apply. She also reviewed the attendance policy for all boards and commissions, along with the electronic participation policy. She also went over the new commissioner checklist for Commissioner Amato. There was also a brief discussion of FOIA and open meeting laws, with further training on this planned.
- During the staff report, Commissioner Kopp noted that there was a high likelihood she would be forced to move outside of Town limits this spring due to the sale of her current residence by the property owner. PIO Rodriguez said she would reach out to the Clerk of the Council for clarification on residency requirements for the Diversity Commission.
- Sgt. Abilmona reviewed some of the ways the Leesburg Police Department has previously engaged with the commission. Commissioner Gonzalez also gave a rundown of previous commission initiatives/projects for Commissioner Amato's benefit.

## Old Business

- **Donation/book drives:** Commissioner Gonzalez recommended deferring discussion of this as Chair Carter was not present for the meeting. There was general agreement to resume this discussion at February's meeting.

## New Business

- **MLK March (Monday, January 16):** Commissioners Gonzalez, Amato and Kopp expressed an interest in participating in the march, representing the commission. PIO Rodriguez said she would work to find the location of the commission banner so it could be used during the march.
- **Vote on chair/vice chair:** Commissioner Gonzalez recommended holding off on these votes until February, when more commissioners could be present.
- **Liaisons to COPA/EDC:** There was agreement to hold off on a discussion of whether to appoint liaisons to the Commission on Public Art and/or Economic Development Commission until February's meeting. Commissioner Gonzalez reiterated his desire for there to be annual or biannual meetings of all board and commission members.
- **Goals/strategies:** There was agreement to defer this discussion until February's meeting. Commissioner Gonzalez said that, following that discussion, each commissioner could be given an assignment to work on to carry forward the goals and strategies set forward by the commission.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

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