



Leesburg Diversity Commission Regular Meeting

Wednesday, September 11, 2024 • 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)
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - Minutes of August 14, 2024 Meeting
- Petitioners
- Commissioner Comments
- Council Member Comments
- Staff Reports
 - Public Information Office
 - Police Department
- Chair Comments
- New Business
 - Q&A/Awareness Event Planning with LAWS (Leighanne Greenberg & Tessa Brody-Wrye)
 - Planning for Employment Fair/ digital ad funding update
 - Proclamation/awareness display requests
 - Next meeting: Wednesday, October 9 @ 7 p.m. (Chief Pirnat will attend)
- Adjournment

**Leesburg Diversity Commission
August 14, 2024
Regular Meeting Minutes**

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

Commissioners Present: Melissa Simonetta
Vanessa Borg
Lisa Marie Horvatinovich
Ana Quijano

Commissioners Absent: Devon Carter
Enrique Gonzalez
Edgard Segura

Others Present: Public Information Officer Kara Rodriguez, Staff Liaison
Sydney Aquilina, member of local Indigenous community

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

- Agenda was approved on a motion by Commissioner Horvatinovich, seconded by Commissioner Simonetta.

Approval of Minutes

- The minutes of the July 10, 2024, regular meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Horvatinovich, seconded by Commissioner Simonetta.

Staff Report

- Ms. Rodriguez gave an update on Bablic implementation and also noted that Chief Thea Pirnat would be attending the Commission's October 9 meeting to provide an annual update.

Old Business

- **National Night Out (debrief):** Commissioner Horvatinovich said the tattoos offered by the Commission were a hit, and all who attended enjoyed themselves. Ms. Rodriguez shared the Police Department's contentment with the event.

New Business

- **Q&A with Sydney Aquilina:** Sydney Aquilina, a member of the local Indigenous community, gave an overview on Indigenous Peoples of Virginia, and also spoke about

her advocacy for a local statue project. Commissioners asked questions and shared thoughts.

- **Fueled Snack Drive:** Ms. Rodriguez gave a brief update on the upcoming snack drive to benefit Fueled. She said a news release would go out after Labor Day for the drive, which will run from September 9 through 20. She will reach out to Fueled staff for coordination.
- **Employment Fair:** Ms. Rodriguez asked for additional guidance on job fair digital advertising and other outreach efforts. The Commission will decide on staffing the job fair at the September meeting.
- **Awareness Displays/Proclamation Requests:** Ms. Rodriguez said she had added this to the agenda as a discussion point in case the Commission wished to recognize any upcoming awareness months or causes. Commissioner Quijano suggested the Commission endorse an awareness display application to recognize October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month to illuminate the Town Hall façade purple during that entire month. A suggestion was made to invite LAWS to the September meeting, and to consider putting together a First Friday event in October to honor the month and to bring awareness to the issue of domestic violence. Commissioners Quijano and Borg offered to be the main points of contact with Ms. Rodriguez. All present voted to request the awareness display and event application.
- **Next Meeting Date:** No conflicts were noted for attendees present for the September 11 meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 11, at 7 p.m.