



Leesburg Diversity Commission Regular Meeting

Wednesday, November 13, 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)
- Title VI Survey Announcement
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - Minutes of October 9, 2024 Meeting
- Petitioners
- Commissioner Comments
- Chair Comments
- Council Member Comments
- Staff Reports
 - Public Information Office
 - Police Department
- New Business
 - Bablic update
 - FY26 budget vote
 - Upcoming meeting schedule
 - Proclamation/awareness display requests
- Adjournment

**Leesburg Diversity Commission
October 9, 2024
Regular Meeting Minutes**

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

Commissioners Present: Enrique Gonzalez
Melissa Simonetta
Lisa Marie Horvatinovich
Ana Quijano
Vanessa Borg
Edgard Segura (electronically)

Commissioners Absent: None

Others Present: Public Information Officer Kara Rodriguez, Staff Liaison
Chief of Police Thea Pirnat
Michele Bowman, Leesburg Police Department

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

Approval of Electronic Participation

- On a motion by Commissioner Horvatinovich, seconded by Commissioner Borg, Commissioner Segura was approved to participate in the meeting electronically due to logistical issues.

Title VI Survey

- Acting Chair Gonzalez read aloud the invitation to participate in the Town's Demographic Survey.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

- The minutes of the September 11, 2024, regular meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Horvatinovich, seconded by Commissioner Segura.

Presentation

- Chief of Police Thea Pirnat gave an overview of the Department's recruiting efforts and answered questions posed by Commissioners.

Commissioner Comments

- **Commissioner Segura** noted that he had accepted the Hispanic Heritage Month proclamation at the Town Council meeting the previous evening. He said he was pleased to see the proclamation had both an English and Spanish version.
- **Commissioners Horvatinovich** and **Quijano** remarked how pleased they were with the October 4 Domestic Violence Awareness Month Ceremony.

Staff Report

- Ms. Rodriguez gave a brief update on Bablic and the reappointment process for Commissioners whose terms would be expiring at the end of the calendar year. She shared that Mayor Burk wanted her to relay how pleased she was with the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Ceremony and how she hoped the Commission would make it an annual event.

Old Business

- **Fueled Snack Drive (de-brief):** Ms. Rodriguez reported that the snack drive bins at Town Hall and Ida Lee Park Recreation Center yielded 85 lbs. of donations to the Fueled nonprofit.
- **Employment Fair (de-brief):** Commissioners shared their thoughts on the Sept. 21 Employment Fair. Acting Chair Gonzalez said he thought the turnout was about the same from the previous year. Ms. Rodriguez reported Crossroads Jobs' overall satisfaction with the event and eagerness to help schedule another one. A general discussion on timing and advertising strategy for the next event ensued, with agreement that a spring date should be pursued and that digital advertising should again be utilized as opposed to postcard mailing. Ms. Rodriguez said she would report back at the next meeting after reaching out to Crossroads and understanding space availability at Ida Lee Park Recreation Center's lower-level banquet hall. A timeframe of April 20-21 was endorsed.
- **Domestic Violence Awareness Month Ceremony (de-brief):** Commissioner Quijano said the event went smoothly and thanked all those who assisted in the event and participated that evening.

New Business

- **Vote on chair/vice chair:** Due to the previous chair's departure, a new chair needed to be appointed. Acting Chair Gonzalez asked Commissioners if there were any nominations. On a motion by Commissioner Horvatinovich, seconded by Commissioner Simonetta, Acting Chair Gonzalez was appointed the Commission's new Chair. As Chair Gonzalez had previously been the Commission's Vice Chair, an appointment for a new Vice Chair was necessary. On a motion by Commissioner Borg, seconded by Commissioner Horvatinovich, Commissioner Segura was appointed the Commission's new Vice Chair. Both thanked their fellow Commissioners for their support.
- **FY26 Budget Discussion:** With a vote on the budget request planned for the Commission's November 13 meeting, an initial discussion on budget priorities for FY26

began. Ms. Rodriguez reviewed the budget process; what the Commission had spent to date in FY25; and gave an overview of her recent findings on the current Bablic plan, with more research promised on the latter. Commissioners discussed some ideas for budget priorities, including advertising and other resources for a second job fair; a table cover and items to hand out at events the Commission participates in; and ASL or other language assistance at Commission events.

- **Proclamation/awareness display requests: Commissioner Borg** sought the Commission’s support of a proclamation in recognition of November as American Indian Heritage Month. All Commissioners endorsed the request. Ms. Rodriguez said she would check with Ms. Aquilina, who accepted the proclamation last year, to see if she or a member of her family would be available to accept the proclamation at a Town Council meeting in November.

Next Meeting Date

- No conflicts were noted for attendees present for the November 13 meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 13, at 7 p.m.