

CITY OF HUNTINGTON WOODS  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
ANTI-RACISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Huntington Woods City Hall

Beaulieu called the Meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Katie Beaulieu, Daniel Dena, Maria LaLonde, in person; Kia  
Essien by Zoom

**ABSENT:** Brandon Mar

City Staff Present: Commissioner Michelle Elder, City Manager Chris  
Wilson

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by Dena and seconded by LaLonde to approve the February 9th  
agenda as proposed.

Ayes: LaLonde, Dena, and Beaulieu

Nays: None

Absent: Essien

**The Motion Carried.**

**APPROVAL OF LAST MEETINGS MINUTES**

Moved by Dena and seconded by Beaulieu to approve the January 12th  
minutes as proposed.

Ayes: LaLonde, Dena, and Beaulieu

Nays: None

Absent: Essien

## **The Motion Carried.**

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Claire Galed requested that the meetings and agenda be placed on the Huntington Woods website for greater access for the public.

Jeff Jencks, City Commissioner, provided a sheet with recommendations of priorities for the group to act on. Jencks read his recommendations to the group, and thanked the committee for agreeing to meet on a monthly basis.

### **ITEMS OF REVIEW**

Review of Anti-Racism Plan and Committee Visioning and Goal Setting

- a. Introductions were made by Beaulieu, Dena, LaLonde and Essien. Elder was introduced as the new liaison for the group. [Chris Wilson](#) was introduced as the new city manager.
- b. Anti-Racism Plan presentation is useful tool to determine what steps have already been taken to address inequalities
- c. DEI training is low hanging fruit for continued growth.
- d. Other low-hanging fruit is working with local realtors to ensure that diverse population has opportunity to purchase homes in the Woods
- e. DEI consultants report is expected by March 15th, and we should expect to be provided a copy.
- f. Issues with public safety are not accurately represented by the statistics published by HW for Black Lives. There have been difficult nuances because the state overcriminalizes poverty by suspending licenses, leaving officers with little options, although discretion is still possible.
- g. Re: Juneteenth, there were plans for celebration last year, but planners were late getting started. As a result, it was difficult to get black-owned food vendors available. There was also difficulty find a speaker. There were plans to invite a professor from Wayne State. Also interest in Black Scholar Tours leader, Jamal LNU. Chris Wilson knows of Jamal and will make an official ask.
- h. Mayor Paul had reportedly suggested rotating Juneteenth celebration with Oak Park every year.

- i. Juneteenth celebrations should be more educational than celebratory to avoid tokenism.
- j. Food vendors should be paid
- k. The library could be consulted about the educational aspect.
- l. Burton Diversity Club was started last year at Burton. They can be invited to empower the group.
- m. Could also reach out to African American Parent Network in Berkley schools
- n. ARAC should consider whether or not to invite political groups or politicians in their official capacity
- o. Explore joining the Government Alliance on Race and Equality (GARE). The cost of joining is not prohibitive.
- p. Elder believes that the Department of Public Safety can be doing more community relations, and she will inquire to see if Andrew Pazuchowski can address the group.
- q. Elder provided that grant was given for the purchase of anti-racism books.

#### Committee Structure

- r. Beaulieu inquired about expanding the group to fill in the resigned seat, and to expand the committee beyond five members. Elder and Wilson encouraged Beaulieu to reach out to the City Commission.
- s.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by LaLonde, and seconded by Dena.

Ayes: LaLonde, Dena, Beaulieu

Nays: None

Absent: Essien

**The Motion Carried, meeting adjourned at 8:05PM.**

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Daniel Dena, Secretary

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Kate Beaulieu, Chairperson