

Diversity and Inclusion Task Force Meeting was held on Tuesday, June 14, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., James “Jim” E. Bostic, Jr., Chair, presiding.

I Call to Order

Chair Jim Bostic called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

II Prayer – Rabbi Joshua Heller, Congregation B’nail Torah

III Roll Call

Members Present: Chair James Bostic, Member Raquel Gonzalez, Member Joshua Heller, Member Nicole Morris, Member Clarissa Sparks, Member Bill Murray

IV Approval of Meeting Minutes

DIT2022-12 Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2022, Diversity and Inclusion Task Force Meeting

Consensus: The March 8, 2022 Diversity and Inclusion Task Force Meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

V New Business

DIT2022-13 Task Force Chair Report

Chair Jim Bostic reported the final report of the Housing Subcommittee is complete. Although a tremendous amount has happened in the last 60 days in housing in the Atlanta area, it is still important to have workforce housing for people in this community. That is the principal recommendation that has come out of the Housing Subcommittee.

Joshua Heller, Communications Subcommittee Chair, stated he sent out some relatively minor changes and adjustments that can be accepted. Mostly in terms of clarity. Also noting that print media is not what is used to be, and electronic media is also accessed. We have offered very concrete suggestions for how communications may be improved and for Sandy Springs professional staff to choose the best way to implement out of several possibilities.

Chair Bostic stated himself and Rabbi Heller were present in a meeting with the Mayor and the City Manager, and a very good discussion was had. This report is in line with this discussion. Chair Bostic asked if any changes needed to be made by the other members before the report is final.

Consensus: The Communications Subcommittee report was approved by consensus.

DIT2022-14 Recreation Subcommittee Report

Clarissa Sparks, Recreation Subcommittee Chair, provided a brief update on subcommittee. Over the last year, the Subcommittee had the opportunity to partner up with community leaders, non-profit organizations, and the Sandy Springs Parks & Recreation Department. The subcommittee’s goal is to make sure voices are heard. Our non-profit partners surveyed 715 participants who provided information on how they used the park facilities. Preplanning was done for focus groups, though those were not

completed. However, eight participants were identified for future studies. Also, spoke to Sandy Springs Recreation and Parks Director Michael Perry to see what initiatives were taking place throughout the year. It was reassuring to hear the Department's commitment to the underserved community.

Chair Jim Bostic stated the meeting with Director Perry was excellent. One of the issues is the city does not have land; however, the local schools have adequate land and is the City partners with the local schools to provide everything from soccer to basketball and athletic fields. It is an excellent program. Anyone that has an interest in the programs can participate by paying the fee. It was a great session and is proud of the work being done.

Motion and vote. A motion was made by Member Joshua Heller, seconded by Member Clarissa Nicole Morris, to approve the Recreation Subcommittee Report. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Chair Bostic continued to report on a recent visit to the Sandy Springs Police Department, where he learned about policing in Sandy Springs. We spoke about an array of things like personnel, policing in the city, the support of police department, the citizens and compensation compared to other cities in Atlanta region.

VI Closing Comments - James E. Bostic, Jr., Chair

Chair Jim Bostic stated this is the last meeting of the Sandy Springs Diversity & Inclusion Task Force. The Task Force has gone over many topics. I am pleased with the quality and support with the city.

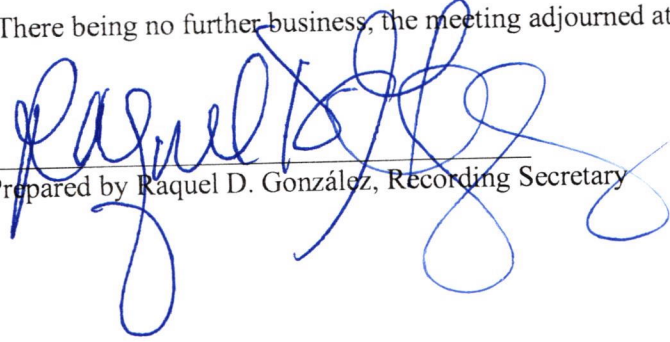
Raquel Gonzalez, Member, shared how she enjoyed getting to know members of the Task Force. This was not an easy assignment, although it may have seemed the Mayor's directive was pretty straight forward, which was to figure out how best to engage our city's diverse community. The Chair's next step is to forward the final report to the City. Next, City Staff will review the information to provide feedback to the City Council at a future City Council meeting.

Melody Kelley, Sandy Springs City Councilmember, stated a few months ago she sent out an email for guidance on Juneteenth from a policy perspective. The national holiday observation is only two years. The first commemoration of Juneteenth in Sandy Springs is Sunday, June 19th on the City Green from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. It is a combined Father's Day and Juneteenth family friendly event. At the event, I want to acknowledge each of you for the work that you have done for diversity and inclusion in Sandy Springs.

VII Prayer – Rev. Bill Murray, Rector, Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church

VIII Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.


Prepared by Raquel D. González, Recording Secretary