



**COMMUNITY DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 19, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: The meeting began at 6:05 p.m. Those present included: Heather Karr, Chair; Jason Nahvi, HR Business Partner; Steve Hrytzik, Chief of Police; Dustin Sun, Robert Davis, Elina Coyne; and Audrey Wilt of the Police Department.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Swearing-in of expired members
It was discussed and agreed upon to swear in Dustin Sun and Taylor Brown at the next meeting.
- Passport to Powell 2022 (August 19, 2022)
Jason Navhi gave an update on what entertainment has been booked. He advised that Megan Canavan was working on getting three (3) acts booked in the next couple of months. He also advised they were looking to bring back the West African Drum Line. Additionally, he added they were looking into having food trucks and vendors to participate in the event as well. Steve Hrytzik stated that because of the day of the week, Friday, he felt this would be beneficial for the people that will be downtown on a Friday evening, that we would have a better opportunity to showcase the culture, plus the food and vendors at the same time. Robert Davis stated that he felt that the Committee is going to have to do a better job of advertising the event, maybe by putting a couple of sandwich boards down on the four corners, just to let folks know that it is upcoming. Discussion on moving the event from different dwellings in the downtown area took place, so that information and educating the people on other cultures could transpire. Heather Karr said that she would reach out to Megan Canavan to see how we should go about approaching some of the other businesses.
- Personnel Issues – New Hire Update
Heather Karr asked Jason Navhi to provide an update for the new personnel of the City of Powell. Jason Navhi stated that Buddy Caplinger started September 27, 2021, he is our new Service Director. He is over the Public Service Department, that does the street and his is over our Parks and Recreation Department as well as our City Engineer. He has a long career in public service, working for Dublin, Arlington and also the City of Westerville. Peyton Kaman came to the City on October 11, 2021, and he works within the Planning Department as he is our City's Development Technician. Peyton comes to us from the Village of Plain City as he was a Zoning Code Technician. He added that he is doing a great job and we're excited for him and hopefully have a long career here with us at Powell. Continuing, Melissa Hindman started on November 8, 2021, and she is

our new Parks and Recreation Manager. Jason added that this was a new position for the City, and Melissa (Missy) comes to us from the City of Worthington and she was there since 1997, and her most recent position there was a Marketing and Communication Outreach Supervisor for the Parks and Recreation Department, so she will be working a lot with creating new programs for the City. Further, we have a new member for the public service department, Brandon Schroepfer, who started on November 15, 2021. He also stated he comes from Colorado as he worked for the Colorado Wildlife Department in various positions from a Park Ranger to a Park Technician. Next, Amy Deere is our new City Clerk and she began on November 22, 2021, and comes to us from Urbana, Ohio. Amy spent over 20 years with the City of Urbana as their Legal Executive Assistant for the Municipal Prosecutor as well as their City Clerk. Finally, we have Rosa Ocheltree, as she began on November 29, 2021, as our new Finance Director, which was another key position that we needed to get filled for the City. Rosa was the Deputy Director of Finance for Dublin, and she also worked for the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) for many years as a Senior Financial Business Analyst. He added that she's already made a huge impact, getting the budget together for 2022, and putting some polices in place.

Robert Davis asked how diverse the new employees were. Jason stated that Rosa Ocheltree has a background from Puerto Rico, and speaks Spanish. The rest of the new staff are Caucasian, so we have a lot of work to do going forward with having more of a diverse staff, as here at the City, that is definitely a goal that we have in the future.

Jason Navhi added that he is the Human Resource Partner for the City. He stated that his entire career has been in an HR background. He worked a short time with Delaware County and also with the Ohio State University as well as Dublin.

- **Holidays in Powell – Multicultural Experience**

Heather Karr stated that she didn't know if anyone attended the Tree-Lighting and Holidays in Powell event, but she wanted to discuss with the Committee other holidays that aren't celebrated in the community, but maybe need to be. Robert Davis requested a calendar which shows all of the holidays. Audrey Wilt stated that maybe other holidays celebrated around Christmas, could include the facts of information of the different holidays for kids. Dustin Sun said that he thought the next holiday coming up was the Lunar Year, and advised that it was the Year of the Tiger. Heather Karr stated that the City was much better this year about announcing what holidays were coming up and also, she would look for those dates and we'll do the social media post which has been ongoing and try to figure out if our Holidays in Powell coincide with any of these other holidays.

- **Other Matters**

Heather Karr asked if anyone had other matters to discuss. Dustin Sun spoke about social media, and having a Powell Diversity Group. Heather Karr said that this was definitely something the Committee could discuss further and she would also reach out to Megan Canavan and get her thoughts as well. Jason Nahvi gave an update on what the City is doing internally with staff. He stated that he's reached out to several companies to do diversity and inclusion training for the staff. He said he would keep the Committee updated.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business to come before the Committee, Heather Karr asked for a motion to adjourn.

