CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
G.C. COMMUNITY DIVERSITY ADVISORY TASK FORCE

October 10, 2022 MINUTES Regular Meeting

1. The regular meeting of the Grove City Community Diversity Advisory Task Force was called to order by Chair Reynolds at 6:00 p.m., in the City Hall Lower Level, 4035 Broadway. Roll was called and the following were present:

   Caden Bauman, Chris Moscato, Jeffrey Tadlock, Dorothy Stewart, Teresa Breckenridge., Miracle Reynolds, Missy Anderson, Danielle Williams, Dan Witteman.

   Ex-Officio member: Christine Houk, Council Member. Also present: Stephen Smith, Director of Law; Tami Kelly, Clerk of Council.

   Absent: Shayne Downton, Viren Patel

2. Ms. Anderson moved to approve the Minutes from 9/12/22; seconded by Ms. Stewart. Motion unanimously approved.

3. Chair Reynolds welcomed everyone and moved into the Listening Session for the meeting. Each member if the public that signed in to answer the question "What do you see as opportunities for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Grove City to make our community the best it can be" was called in order that they signed in:

   Chris Sekol – read the Task Force's definition of "Inclusion" and stated that he has been attending the meetings and waiting to speak. However, he feels that there is a filter being placed on everyone tonight. He said he came to listen, as well as to speak, about the diverse opinions from everyone. If they could share an unrestricted space, perhaps they could hear and understand each other, and resolve some differences. He asked that the filter be removed so people can speak freely tonight and experience the benefits that inclusion has to offer.

   David Donofrio – thanked everyone for serving on the Task Force. He said the City's non-discrimination ordinance currently applies to employees only. He suggested that this ordinance be applied to the public as well. He also encouraged the Task Force to bring in other perspectives as well – such as his husband who would like to address them about Autism and people with disabilities. He encouraged them to reach out to all members of the community and make sure Grove City becomes an inclusive place for everyone.

   Brian Weaver – stated that he has been to many police departments to speak as a disability advocate. He said he feels Mayor Stage to be present at these meetings to show support. He said he has been harassed by law enforcement. He believes disability awareness and resources is lacking in Grove City.

   Chris Moore – stated that she wants a clean, good activity, and environment where families and kids can grow adequately. She said she doesn't feel diversity is a problem in Grove City – as she and her friends believe they accept and welcome everyone into the community: all ages, races, sexes, religions, etc. She said she doesn't believe there needs to be new programming or policy-making and shaped by citizens & businesses. She said human identity were created by God. She said those with gender dysphoria can get help. They can be included but we don't have to change our policies or environment to make them a priority. She said we want to include people of all shapes and sizes, but want to hear from them, so maybe we all can understand them better.

Keely Thomas – said that when talking about diversity, equity and inclusion, she wants to make sure we are looking at moral values and being conscience about what is being applied. She said she lived the gay life for 25 years and walked away from it. She said she sees the agenda that is being pushed by the gay agenda. However, we need to be considerate and insure that we do not open a Pandora's Box in this City, with things going on around the world. She said drag queens at the libraries; story telling in the schools is not how she wants to live in the town and not what she wants her kids exposed to. She asked that the Task Force keep these thoughts in their mind.

Pam Gatewood – stated that she does want drag performers at the library and at story time. She said this Task Force is reinforcing her decision to move here. She asked that the Task Force: recognize that you have a change to give voice to those who have been harassed, overlooked and targeted; host community conversations so we can learn from each other and see each other as human beings. She said she does not know what kind of discrimination is happening in Grove City, as she is just a straight, white woman. She said she knows that we need to honor others lived experiences. She sees the Task Force as a bridge between all members of our community. She said she hears from her kids that the schools need the most help. She said we have the opportunity to change the youth culture of our community and teachers need to learn how to communicate.

Chad Cline – said he is a Freedom Christian Pastor and spoke about equity. He hopes that the Task Force does not become political. He shared concerns over equity – as everyone needs to be treated fairly. However, feels equity has become racism in reverse – as people are being treated solely based on race, ethnicity, etc. He said you can't win a battle for love with hate; you can't bring division into the decision making process and create unity.

Carl Ranshaw – commented that the make-up of the Task Force is not diverse and believes that it needs to be revisited and rebalanced to address cultural, age, disability, etc. He feels this is more of a closed group than it should be. He hopes that there will be some kind of a visible response from the Task Force with what was brought forward today. He also asked that the time of the meetings be changed so they do not conflict with SWCS Board Meetings.

4. Ms. Kelly and Mr. Smith alternated reading the comments that had been submitted on-line to date. A copy is attached.

5. A motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous consent.

Adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Teresa Breckenridge
Secretary

Miracle Reynolds
Chair