



## SHAKER HEIGHTS

### Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Agenda At City Hall Council Chambers Thursday, July 20, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

This meeting is being held in person with an option to join the Zoom meeting as a viewer or listener from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85378789992?pwd=RFNBa1JPakVGY1lwYlA3MUJzQUtaZz09>, Password: 33553400; Description: DEI Committee; or join by phone at 833-548-0282 (toll free); Webinar ID: 853 7878 9992; Password: 33553400. International numbers available at <https://zoom.us/u/ahwKbeuA>. The audio of the meeting will be available the following day on the City's [website](#).

1. Approval of March 16, 2023 meeting minutes.

Documents:

[DEI MIN 20230316.PDF](#)

2. Approval of the May 18, 2023 meeting minutes.

Documents:

[DEI MIN 20230518.PDF](#)

3. Approval of the June 15, 2023 meeting minutes.

Documents:

[DEI MIN 20230615.PDF](#)

4. Consider request for reimbursement from Ludlow Community Association and Ben Hsu.
5. Determine topic of August 31 Community Conversation.
6. Plan City-Wide "Neighborhood Engagement" meetings.
7. Update on selection of new DEI Committee members.
8. City Updates.
9. Resident Updates/Announcements.



**DEI Committee Minutes  
Via Zoom Pursuant to Chapters 113 and 115 of the  
Codified Ordinances (as amended in Ordinance 22-28), and  
Resolution No. 22-29, enacted March 22, 2022.  
Thursday, March 16, 2023  
8:00 a.m.**

Members Present: Council Chair Sean P. Malone  
Mayor David E. Weiss  
Council Member Anne Williams  
Council Member Carmella Williams  
Citizen Member Phillip Rowland Seymour  
Citizen Member Julie Kaufman

Others Present: Chief Administrative Officer Jeri E. Chaikin  
Chief Diversity Officer Colleen Jackson

The meeting was called to order by Council Chair Sean P. Malone at 8:03 a.m.

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**Approval of the February 16, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that there was one correction to note in the minutes. There was not a contract in place with Kay Coaching and the City, and they simply could not come to an agreement on a renewal of the contract. The minutes now reflect that correction.

It was moved by Ms. Anne Williams and seconded by Ms. Carmella Williams to approve the February 16, 2023 meeting minutes.

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**Dates and Times for Remaining Community Meetings**

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that they will start a discussion solidifying the dates and times of the next community conversations. There is one coming up tonight specific to point-of-sale housing inspections, but he wanted to make sure they have the dates and times for the broader quarterly community conversations. Ms. Kaufman was very helpful to send a Doodle Poll. It looks like they are set for May 18th as the next one. The other two dates would be in August and November. For August they are looking at either the 29th or 30th in the evenings, but he does not have an exact time, roughly between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. He asked if they thought more people would attend on a Tuesday or a Wednesday night, or if it matters. He also asked about any potential conflicts. He suggested meeting on the 30th, if no one objects which is a Wednesday. The final meeting date will be either November 28th or 29th. That's the week after Thanksgiving. Tuesday was suggested since they've already have meetings on Wednesday and Thursday.

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Ms. Carmella Williams stated that Tuesdays are the same night as Neighbor Night in Moreland so that would be a conflict.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that they would go with November 29<sup>th</sup> instead. That will help with promotion and planning for folks to get those dates on their calendars.

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**Format for March 16<sup>th</sup> Community Conversation with Building and Housing**

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that the meeting tonight will take place at The Dealership at 7:00 p.m. They will start with a presentation by members of the Building and Housing Inspection Department.

Ms. Anne Williams stated that Building and Housing Inspection Director Kyle Krewson, Housing Commissioner William Hanson and Housing Inspector Reginald Evans would be presenting.

Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson stated that they will also be joined by Assistant Law Director Lisa Gold-Scott who deals with ADA issues, and fair housing to answer any questions on those topics.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that he appreciates all the City employees joining them after hours. The residents hopefully will appreciate it as well. It's not often people get to speak to those folks in person. He asked about the format.

Ms. Anne Williams stated they talked about going by topic covering three areas and then have a question and answer session. It will be more of a dialogue rather than just a presentation.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that it is open to the public and an opportunity to talk about an issue that was raised at the community conversations in November 2022. It was an issue of concern by residents regarding how the process works and the fairness of it.

Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson stated that the three topics included the basics of building and housing, point-of-sale inspections and renting in Shaker. Aside from point-of-sale inspections, the issue that comes up the most in gatherings are experiences of renters and their rights. A lot of people had questions following a fire in the City. She thought to add Assistant Director Gold-Scott to be more informative and educational for residents and it should spark some good discussion.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that his hope was that the point-of-sale discussion could be broader, and they could cover more housing issues generally. They could talk about the six initiatives they focused on at the community meeting last month, priority setting, and perhaps metrics. More importantly moving forward with more discussions on all these topics. Point-of-sale inspections is the first one. A lot of people are interested in the rental component. They could spend a moment on each of these six topics, thinking about whether there are metrics. Council has a retreat planned for next month and they may come back with some other ideas on these topics. They are still trying to figure out what if any problems there are and how they could potentially address them.

Ms. Anne Williams stated that she does not have any ideas for metrics at this point. They are important but she does not know of any that fit this topic. Tonight may spark some ideas.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that a lot of the concerns raised are about the fairness of the inspection process. There is also an issue of dealing with landlords and how we incentivize landlords to make repairs or help them keep homes in a habitable condition. After review of the statistics the committee may be able to find ways to reduce the number of housing violations in some manner over time. There was a backlog after COVID-19 due to inspectors not being able to inspect a lot of properties. Things fell into disrepair in certain buildings in the City. The committee will have a better sense after tonight. They talked a little about the promotion of minority or under represented businesses at the last community conversation, and shared some ideas. A lot of the ideas involved some work that the Shaker Heights Development Corporation (SHDC) is already doing. That is another topic that Council will probably discuss at their retreat along with some of the incentive programs for small businesses in the City as they think about the Lee Road Plan and revitalizing that corridor. They will come up with new programs and initiatives to support businesses in that district and Citywide, such as the Business Improvement District (BID).

Mr. Seymour stated that there were a bunch of great ideas that did come up such as promotion work for brick and mortar businesses as well as in-home and online businesses. They want to make sure that they're promoting those businesses and making folks aware. Another piece was providing infrastructural support for those businesses.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that one of the things that came to mind given the overlap between what the City's Economic Development Department is already doing and what SHDC is already doing, it might be nice to have a forum devoted just to problems that are confronting minority or under represented businesses, or businesses in general in Shaker with a focus on DEI. SHDC is already holding those kind of business meetings.

Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson stated that she has had discussions with Economic Development Director Laura Englehart about the creation of this list, but have not spoken directly with the business community about what their needs are specific to DEI. The two of them are in the process of planning a community conversation for the business owners so they can work together to meet some of their needs and they can raise concerns that are DEI specific so the committee can help or gain insight on what's working well to continue it. It is one thing to have a list compiled of all minority-owned businesses, but the committee should be asking how they want to be supported. They can do that by having a conversation. Hopefully sometime this summer that'll happen and they will know better how this committee can support those efforts in addition to what is being done by the SHDC. It's important to make sure that they know who to recommend for opportunities that come up. She wants to take a multi-pronged approach to support them and ask them how they want to be supported.

Ms. Kaufman stated that SHDC has business association meetings. They are typically split to address the needs so they are not guessing what people are interested in talking about at these meetings. The greater Van Aken district usually has its own meeting, and then Chagrin/Lee has its own meeting. There are times when both groups are together, but typically those groups have met separately to talk about the issues that make sense for those entities. SHDC works very closely with the Economic Development Department. She started to draft a diversity and inclusion preference indicator document which has been circulated to a slew of people in the business community, to Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson and other folks. It's basically a way to gather information and for people to self-

identify. Instead of the committee pulling together a list, this information will let them know who to go to as opposed to generally putting things out. The committee is trying to do this in a careful way. The conversations with the business owners is a great way to go. One of the business owners who uses space at The Dealership is a DEI consultant and will do one of the business association meetings leading one of the conversations with the Chagrin/Lee group. She is mentioning this because there's nothing better than over communicating. SHDC has been talking about this too. She would be happy to hear a bit more about what was said in the small group.

Mr. Seymour stated that it will be shared.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that what intrigued him was the needs of people who are working from their homes. We have many people now working from their homes, not just folks who are working at Progressive or University Hospitals, but small business owners. As recently as 10 or 15 years ago this was not a thing in Shaker that was encouraged or celebrated. There still might be some challenges that people face. He suspects there's a lot of underrepresented people who have small businesses in their home. It hadn't really occurred to him, but he found it interesting that the Racial Equity Subcommittee brought up the issue of home-based businesses too. We may not have a good sense of how many work from home and asked if the SHDC has data on that.

Ms. Kaufman stated that she believes the SHDC has a list from the Economic Development Department of home-based businesses. It might not have 100% of the home-based businesses, because it won't include the ones they don't know exist.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that it looks like they are in the initial stages of all the initiatives, but they have good momentum, good ideas and a lot of great connections. It is great that Ms. Kaufman is participating in this committee and at the same time working with the SHDC. Maybe they could have a guest speaker either from the SHDC or from the City but it is probably better to have that broader conversation first with the community.

### **February Community Conversation Recap**

Council Chair Mr. Malone asked if Ms. Kaufman could give a recap of the welcoming initiatives led by her at the last community conversation. He asked if she could give a couple of the ideas that were discussed there, some of which are ongoing and have been in existence. There's also the work that Neighborhood Development Specialist Theo Darden is doing to revitalize the welcoming committees in each neighborhood.

Ms. Kaufman stated that she appreciated that she and Mr. Darden along with a few Moreland neighbors were having a meeting before the community conversation to discuss welcoming Moreland residents specifically. She has been listening to these conversations for a while. She appreciated they were having that meeting in the cafe in the library. They then changed over to the DEI community conversation, and people ended up staying for that conversation. Carolyn Steiner who has been working with an English language learner program at the library ended up sitting at the table. Another woman who was a former sociology professor happened to have a ton of experience running focus groups. Ms. Steiner stated that she is looking to run focus groups with the English language learners and a match was made with this person who had come to the meeting. She was interested in hearing what the DEI Committee was doing and she and Ms. Steiner made this connection. A new resident

to Shaker came with an interesting perspective who works with young people. The two main things that came out of it was meeting someone that you would have never met before and having a conversation. There were not many people, but the magic and the beauty happened with whomever was there.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that there may have been 20 to 25 people there if they're being generous. It was tough given the time they had to promote that meeting. It doesn't matter how many people are there, it's always worthwhile. One of the great things is that a woman from a nearby community joined the meeting after reading about it online and learning that her community does not have a DEI Committee. She feels like she is not supported as a city employee where she lives and is hoping she could start something similar there. She was looking for ideas and inspiration. That was rewarding for all of them to see.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that number four on his list of six topics was building awareness and alignment with the key City-wide priorities which was discussed at his table. That is shorthand for promoting awareness about facilities planning and the big picture issues that are going on in Shaker with the schools and their bond initiative and also the City's recreation plans. Surprisingly, not a lot of people wanted to talk about that. Within the next few weeks the schools are going to have a finished plan or be close to a finished plan that they intend to put on the ballot. This summer there'll be a lot of conversation about this. Maybe his group could set up or participate in a forum that helps educate people about a bond initiative or City recreation study, which will be starting at some point this summer as well. He has started a monthly recreation working group usually the last Wednesday or Thursday of the month at noon on Zoom with folks from the school district athletic department, the operations department, and the Recreation Department to get everybody on the same page. Those are big topics and it is hard to set metrics, but there's still a lot of misinformation out there. He welcomes any ideas and support anyone would like to contribute.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that item number five involves revitalizing community and neighborhood engagement. The City will not have the services of Kay Coaching this coming year. Neighborhood engagement and community engagement has been ongoing in the Moreland neighborhood. It has not necessarily expanded in similar ways to other neighborhoods, and they still need to support and expand what's going on in Moreland. This will be a topic also at the Council retreat.

Ms. Carmella Williams summarized their conversation. There were folks from three Shaker neighborhoods: Sussex, Moreland, and Lomond who participated in that conversation. They all expressed the importance of having strong relationships among residents in the broad community and neighborhood to neighborhood specifically. They had great ideas on how to fill the void by the absence of a consultant by tapping into the local universities that have community engagement specific studies and resources that could be helpful to us. We thought that would be worthwhile to research to see if it is an option. They also talked about the necessity of building community relationships around food and events, and more importantly tapping into existing efforts with the various stakeholders in the community, while also looking for additional ways that the DEI Committee could do that as well. They acknowledged that because so much of this work is already going on in various spaces throughout the community, it would be wise to take advantage of those existing relationships. The overall theme was understanding the importance of building on the work that was done in Moreland, in addition to expanding that work and making sure that it's stable and structured in a way

that allows it to be long lasting. That is important as well as connecting with our various community partners.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that the idea of trying to use local universities is intriguing. Mark Joseph might be a good person to contact on that front.

Ms. Carmella Williams stated that the resident who suggested we explore that talked about Case Western, Cleveland State and John Carroll universities specifically. They didn't go into detail on what each of those institutions offered. Dr. Joseph is someone who does work in mixed income communities, but works at Case Western. If he's not the right person, he could connect them with someone. The thing to focus on is connecting with those universities, circling back to those residents who made that suggestion and trying to identify specific points of contact in those institutions to begin that conversation.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that they are still gathering feedback from the community. It is hard to set metrics necessarily, but consistent effort and consistent communication will go a long way on all of these topics. This may be another topic where there is opportunity for a forum from the community about how people feel about the neighborhoods in Shaker, not just the neighborhood they live in, but neighborhoods on the other side of the City. Somebody told him recently in a conversation that they want to have a Fernway Olympics, not in the sense of an athletic competition, but a bake-off or a musical competition to engage neighbors in a fun way. People are not just thinking about their individual street anymore, but they're thinking about their neighborhood. He wonders if some sort of idea like that could be translated into a friendly way to get to know neighbors in an event. Anything they can do to get people to think beyond their block. Block parties are a great tradition in Shaker, but you are sometimes limited in your outlook by it. As great as the Moreland neighborhood work has been, he is concerned it is only being understood or appreciated by people in the Moreland neighborhood or people in the know at the City. The rest of Shaker isn't aware of what's going on there.

Ms. Carmella Williams stated that one of the takeaways from that last conversation during the recap was overlap. Not only was there overlap between the topics that they've discussed, but overlap with work that's being done by various City departments, committees and so on. They are having this conversation, but in the broader sense there is so much natural overlap that maybe they can set aside some time to connect those dots so they're more effective in using their people power in ways that bring people together and knock down borders.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that as frustrating sometimes as it feels to just have meetings repeatedly, the point is to have the meetings. Ideas are generated that you hadn't anticipated.

Ms. Kaufman wondered if they could do an intentional event for people to meet. The reason she knows as many people as she does is because she is intentional about showing up and attending all kinds of things, or introducing herself to people. It is something that she works on. She wonders if they could find a way to give people permission to meet neighbors in a way that does not make people feel uncomfortable when they otherwise might feel uncomfortable. She thinks it could be part of a larger campaign.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that it's a terrific thought. They struggle with building community when everyone has their social networks online, so the question is how they get to know their neighbors.

Ms. Anne Williams stated that something like that, maybe not in that format, is a great idea. She appreciates Ms. Kaufman sharing that.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that since COVID-19 the City has not really had community-wide events. Before there was the Van Aiken district, there was a big parking lot where there were community events although it did not reach the entire community. Perhaps there could be a more intentional way of bringing people together, like One World Day, with a multicultural celebration where everybody is invited. They could start by having pop-up gatherings or events. Maybe they could have a DEI tent at sporting events or other places where they have food, sports, and music for a more universal connection for people beyond their neighborhood.

Mr. Seymour stated that the old Shaker tagline is that a city is known by its schools. There are a lot of online conversations about the schools and the school plan. His suspicion is that there aren't a lot of visits to the schools. In the spirit of collaboration they could work with the schools to facilitate visits. They could facilitate community engagement in school athletics to find natural community building inflection points around athletics or around the schools in general to create spaces where there could be natural introductions. The City could sponsor a Red Raiders basketball game, or football game or band concert.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that he agrees with that approach. He also likes the idea of taking trips to look at the school buildings. His recollection is that tours have been offered to the elected officials, but not the public. That's something they could think about as the schools are promoting their plan.

Ms. Carmella Williams stated that about 68 to 70% of our population no longer has students in the schools. That's a huge community of people that don't have a direct connection with the schools currently, but could offer their support to the school in other ways. She envisions an invitation sent out to the City community inviting them to a home game for Shaker to cheer on the Raiders.

Mr. Seymour stated that it could be as simple as aligning communications and sponsoring an event. It feels like an opportunity. Lots of people are talking about the schools on their facebook groups, and he suspects not many people visit the schools. It could be helpful in the context of community building to use the schools.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that would blend into the last topic of youth engagement or intergenerational connections. Several people came to the community conversation in November who were interested in volunteering at the schools. He wonders if they could expand the network of volunteers who help overworked teachers and administrators in the district.

Mr. Seymour stated that organizing volunteers for teachers sounds helpful but often creates more work for them. He suggested having a volunteer from the City to make it less onerous for teachers and administrators.



## Updates

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that the internal DEI assessment is now complete, and Council will discuss it in April.

Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson stated that it will be presented formally to Council at the retreat and just yesterday the internal DEI Task Force presented the internal DEI Action Plan to the leadership. She will be in individual conversations with each director and the chiefs to help actualize the portions that are specific to their department and to visualize some DEI goals for each department. Coming out of the assessment, she is pleased that people feel they can speak up and be heard with the expectation that something will be done. The City wants to uphold its DEI values. There are always places to improve, but they are not starting from scratch. There is an understanding, expectation and appreciation. Now it's time to get it done. The internal DEI Task Force came up with great ideas, and by the end of April it'll be public and everybody can look at it.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that it probably won't be until May that this group can discuss it. He asked if anyone had ideas for a guest speaker to present for maybe 10 to 15 minutes at the outset at the next meeting. He hopes they can each come up with some other ideas for next month's meeting on each of the topics they have been assigned. This work is a little vague sometimes, but there are things they can do based on the ideas that are generated each month to move things forward in a positive direction.

Mr. Seymour stated that there is a Shaker Citizens for Fair Ticketing initiative that's happening and suggested inviting the organizers to talk at the next meeting.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that they could consider that but they might want to invite someone from the City to give the City's perspective as well. They haven't necessarily talked about policing and certainly that's a big topic when it comes to DEI, but it isn't one of their goals for this year.

Ms. Carmella Williams invited everyone in the DEI Committee and everyone listening to the Moreland Neighbor Night the last Tuesday of every month usually held at the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Community Building at 6:00 p.m. That way everyone can see one form of community engagement in action.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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Colleen Jackson, Chief DEI Officer



**DEI Committee Minutes**  
**Via Zoom Pursuant to Chapters 113 and 115 of the**  
**Codified Ordinances (as amended in Ordinance 22-28), and**  
**Resolution No. 22-29, enacted March 22, 2022.**  
**Thursday, May 18, 2023**  
**8:00 a.m.**

Members Present: Council Chair Sean P. Malone  
Mayor David E. Weiss  
Council Member Anne Williams  
Citizen Member Julie Kaufman

Others Present: Chief Administrative Officer Jeri E. Chaikin  
Chief Diversity Officer Colleen Jackson

The meeting was called to order by Council Chair Sean P. Malone at 8:05 a.m.

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**Approval of the March 16, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that because there is a light turnout today they do not have a quorum to approve the minutes. He looked them over and there are a lot of great ideas being generated in the conversations.

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**Final update on the internal DEI Assessment and Action Plan**

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that they will turn to the Internal DEI Assessment and some of the takeaways.

Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson stated that the City has been undergoing an Internal DEI Assessment with our partners, MGT Consulting. She is very pleased with the feedback and there was good employee participation. MGT did focus groups with two groups of employees, and a full City staff survey. They interviewed each department director to make sure they had a good idea of policies and procedures so they could give us feedback. A couple of great things that came out of it was an internal DEI Task Force, which is similar to the DEI Committee, but comprised of employees from every department. The internal DEI Task Force has created an action plan for things to implement over the next year or so. Some of the things include increasing communication around DEI, making sure there's cohesion across departments, increasing cross-departmental collaboration, and upping the training and development opportunities internally and externally. MGT's Lamont Browne came in and spoke with the City's Management Team, and the DEI Task Force. She is currently meeting with each department to review the results with them, answer questions, and get feedback about the process.

**CITY OF SHAKER HEIGHTS**

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**shakeronline.com www.shaker.life**

Every employee was given access to the full report, and those without email access had a printed version delivered to them. They also got a copy of the action plan. It was very thorough and she thinks it will guide the City for the next couple of years on the DEI journey. There are opportunities in the future to reassess and chart progress. She is grateful to MGT and for the cooperation of the staff. The fact that we have done this has boosted morale, not that it was low, but people are excited and encouraged that the City cares enough to make this investment both in time and money. They are looking for the committee to actualize the plan.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that because of the sensitivity of getting employees to speak up about their internal experiences while working for the City, a lot of the responses are going to be kept confidential to encourage people to speak freely about working for the City. One thing worth the public knowing is that employees have not always been treated as well as they would like by residents in some of their service capacities, whether in the Public Works Department or the Recreation Department in their interactions with the community. That's something for everyone in the community to be mindful in how they treat those who are providing public services.

Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson added that all of the responses were kept anonymous. The only thing that wasn't completely anonymous obviously was the focus groups because employees attended, but no one from leadership. MGT was really big on protecting the anonymity of our employees so that they would trust them to share actually how they felt. They discovered some public facing employees have negative interactions with some residents. She did a training with every department personally, and those are things they shared with her. They have been updating the customer service handbook, making sure that employees are aware of the rules, and what they don't have to tolerate. She has also been talking about what the external messaging should be. The good part is overall most Shaker residents treat employees who provide community services with respect and appreciation, but no matter where you go, there will be outliers who do not. They are trying to limit that. She is first trying to show up for employees to empower them so that they know what is expected of them and how they are supported. Then what they need is leaders and other residents holding each other accountable so they don't treat employees poorly. There will be more campaigns around that and opportunities for people to show their support of employees.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that there are opportunities for some follow up down the road as the City internally tries to implement a lot of these policies and practices so that employees feel like they have a more supportive workplace.

Mayor Weiss added that he attended a few pieces of this to emphasize the Administration's and the City's support of this assessment. He also had the privilege of attending one of the ending sessions where a group of employees presented the action plan from the internal assessment. He was really impressed by the candor, the sensitivity, the thoughtfulness of the ideas, and the tone of the conversation. Not that he should be surprised, but it's always nice to see employees really engaged and really dedicated to this process. Hats off to everybody who put it together for approving it. It was really great and it is just the beginning.

Ms. Anne Williams stated that she appreciated the presentation that was given at the Council retreat. It provided a lot of depth as to the process. She really appreciates all the effort that went into it. The action plan that was developed is robust and a great roadmap. She hopes that as the City works through internally some of these roadmaps and achieve some of these goals, they can share them with the public. She understands they're not doing it at this point with the action plan, but thinks they are going

to achieve some very valuable steps in the City as they work through this. She hopes they can share some of this with the public so they can understand what the City is doing in a more concrete way. There is really good work that has been done in this assessment, and there is great work going forward. She would like to share as much as they can.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that some of the recommendations were to formalize policies that are already in place where the City has been operating on them informally and just has not put in writing in one centralized place.

Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson stated that it was interesting because some of the things they were applauded for doing are in practice, but not necessarily in policy. When any organization has existed for a long time, it's important that people know how things work and that those things are written somewhere. Should leadership change, those things can remain. Those types of changes are going to be easy to make once they are written down so they can be relied upon. It was enlightening to learn the impact that had. It was a great discovery process and she feels supported and uplifted by how each department director is willing to help actualize it.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that he looks forward to hearing more about the implementation of that in the future. There was a question in the chat about where to find the action plan. He asked if some of those things could be made public at some point.

Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson stated that she will find out.

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**Discussion of the request by ELL program for reimbursement of meeting expenses.**

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that they received a request by the English Language Learners Program spearheaded by Carolyn Steiner for reimbursement of meeting expenses. There is a page on the City's website now which sets forth the process the DEI Committee discussed for reimbursing meeting expenses, up to a maximum of \$250 to support meeting space, reservation fees, food, speaker fees, and child care to facilitate meetings that are consistent with the DEI mission or DEI goals. This is the first request which they received by email since the form wasn't online at the time. Ms. Steiner is hoping to have two focus group meetings with the English Language Learners to find out what support attendees would like to have and how they can improve their program. These meetings will probably take place later in June or perhaps July. They did exchange some emails on this, and he believe the majority of committee members are supportive of reimbursing this request. If that's the case, the only thing worth discussing is whether the \$250 expense limit is a hard cap or they might be willing in some instances to reimburse greater amounts. Ms. Steiner is requesting funds of up to \$1,000, but it would include translation services for some of the international residents who don't speak English. She was not expecting that she would need all of the translation services that she itemized. It also includes some small expenses for food. He believes they agreed the work is worthy of the committee's support. The question is how much support to provide.

Ms. Kaufman agreed they should support the request. Ms. Steiner has been working very hard and mission wise it is definitely on track with what the DEI Committee is doing. She asked if there is a

finite amount to use by a certain date in case someone else asks and wondered if they can also accommodate another request.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that the DEI Committee was appropriated \$25,000 for reimbursement of meeting expenses, and for other initiatives. He does not believe they have spent more than \$1,500. They have purchased snacks for some of the meetings and they're half way through the year. They talked about allocating \$5,000 for meetings of this nature.

Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson stated that they discussed having a pot of \$5,000 from which community members could apply for these types of reimbursements, which is why they ended up setting a \$250 cap for each request to help as many people as possible.

Ms. Anne Williams stated that \$250 is a good guideline but should not be a hard and fast rule. She feels strongly about supporting this up to the amount requested. It is a different kind of meeting given the translators, and the depth of services needed to have this meeting effectively. Ms. Steiner is a very valuable resource, and this is a very important meeting. Given they haven't had a lot of requests, or spent a lot of money last year, she would be very supportive of this request. Even if they have to bump up the pool of \$5,000, it is worth it to accommodate a meeting such as this. The proposal has such great detail and it's hard to argue with the expenses. When they were thinking about \$250 they imagined a group getting together at the library and providing childcare, and food perhaps, without a lot of other expenses. This is something different they weren't anticipating when they talked about that \$250 guideline. This is really valuable and they have the money. It would be wonderful to have that many community events where people are asking for money and support. They can accommodate this with the budget they have.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that the proposal says up to \$1,000. Some of the translators would come from relatively far away and some of it depends on the types of languages needed. They quoted \$120 for two hours of translation from the translation services used by the Shaker Schools. If all the beginner students from the class attended, they would need translators in French, Nepalese, Spanish, Turkish, and Ukrainian. That would require five translators at \$120 an hour for two hours.

Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson suggested language to the effect that if people would like to request more they could submit additional information and appeal to the committee. It is not posted yet online with the form because the committee had not had an opportunity to talk about it. This is the first request but Ms. Steiner has provided these kinds of services for years. They also talked about in the future not making it necessary for people to be reimbursed. For now they will be reimbursed, but they can add that language also. As the word gets out, they can keep a cap and use it all. Now it is better to use it and support this project.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that they could tell Ms. Steiner the committee is supportive up to \$250. If she'd like to submit more after the fact they could consider the request depending on the number of translators that come. If they get a lot of meeting requests, speaker fees may be \$200 to \$1,000.

Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson stated that means in a year's span, they would only support five events for \$1,000. A question from the chat was where people can find information on these funds and how it is being publicized. When the DEI Committee received the allocation, they discussed in the meetings they would like to provide this support. They haven't publicized it outside of the meetings yet. The

form is active on the website, but most people don't know about it. Their goal for the end of this year is to increase the communication about it. They are working on a plan to get the word out.

Ms. Anne Williams stated that they have to consider each request as people come up with ideas. If they involve speaker fees, they may look at each one individually. She would hesitate to tell Ms. Steiner they are supportive only up to \$250 because she doesn't know if Ms. Steiner will feel comfortable planning without knowing she is going to be reimbursed for the expenses outlined. She would prefer to support her up to \$1,000 or her requested amount dependent on the reimbursement form she provides. Assuming it is in order and she spends the expenses as planned, they should commit upfront to doing it. This is a big deal. Given Ms. Steiner's history working in this field, it's not a one-off.

Ms. Kaufman agreed about the \$1,000 being fair. She appreciates how thoughtful the committee is about the money and forms. It is important but on the flip side, the committee is about being inclusive. Ms. Steiner is trying to get translators so people can participate in a conversation. There is no question they should fund this.

Council Chair Mr. Malone suggested they approve her request. It looks like they are all in favor. They could change the cap to \$500 or include the suggested language on the website for people who wish to request more than \$250.

Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson offered to come up with a few options to be added to the form and submit them via email to the committee. They want to make sure they are being equitable. If someone requests \$1,000 they have to weigh it based on the value they're offering, and how it fits in line with DEI values. Ms. Steiner has a history doing this work. The rest of the applicants may not have that. She will work on draft language and send it out. When they meet next time they can decide what to use or it may already be posted based on their responses. Hopefully, within the month they can get the word out and let people know they would love for people to use this money to help advance important DEI initiatives.

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### **Discussion on resident participation on committee.**

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that he would like to talk about attracting and retaining residents who would like to do DEI work along with what they've been doing so far with committee priorities. There is a meeting tonight at the library from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Boulevard Room on the second floor focused on neighborhood association work. They invited all the neighborhood association leaders that are listed on the City's website to attend. It's open to anyone in the community who wants to work on neighborhood engagement work. They would like to get a better handle on the type of work that's going on in the different neighborhoods, what people would like to do in those groups, and how the City can support them. They have had a few departures on the committee from resident members. He asked if they should go back to the pool of applications they had when they started the committee, or finish out the year with the group they have and recruit people through the broader community conversation meetings.

Ms. Anne Williams confirmed the citizen members on the committee: Julie Kaufman and Tracy Williams. She believes it is important to add more now. They have six months left of this year, and it's important to have more citizen representation on this committee.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that they always had three citizens along with some citizen subcommittee vice chairs.

Chief Dei Officer Ms. Jackson stated that the original concept was to focus on the areas of the task force, so they started with three subcommittees: Racial Equity, Youth Engagement, and Welcoming/Inclusion. Each of the subcommittees had a resident member as the chair and a vice chair. Tracy Williams was originally the vice chair of youth engagement. When the chair left she stepped up as chair. When the Chair for welcoming/inclusion stepped down Julie Kaufman stepped up as chair. Andrea Boyd continues to serve as the vice chair. Both the chair and vice chair of the racial equity subcommittee have stepped down. During the DEI Committee retreat they opted to get rid of the subcommittees and create goals which people could choose to manage. As they get better established and clearer in terms of the community understanding what the committee is doing, she believes they will be able to garner support once again.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that they probably still have a handful of applications that were great that they didn't get a chance to extend an invitation to last time. They can consider them now. It has been a year and a half since folks applied, so they can check to see if they're still interested.

Ms. Kaufman stated that the reasons people join or leave a committee may vary depending on personal situations. The reasons for people coming or going might be something to discuss at some point. Inviting a new person is great as inclusion is a topic here. They should not leave it open for the rest of the year. She is concerned about the way a person is selected, how that works, and how it appears. There were over 90 applications the first time, but now that some actual work has been accomplished, it might make sense to see who is actually coming to the meetings. There is a place on the website to submit your name if you are interested in being involved in a City committee at any point. She asked about that process. She is not committed to any process, but asked if there is a procedure that usually happens.

Mayor Weiss stated that it used to be very informal. People would either nominate themselves or someone else would recommend someone for a committee. To make it more transparent a form was created on the City's website. People can see descriptions of the committees and submit their information to serve on a commission, board or committee. When openings arise that is one of the ways we find people that are interested. Things change and sometimes someone isn't able to participate any longer, but it was intended to be a way for everyone in the community who wants to serve to have a way of expressing that interest.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that with this committee in particular, there was a concerted effort to publicize the opportunity when it started. They did something similar with the Sustainability Committee when it started. Typically it's just an appointment by the Mayor. In this case they had some pretty extensive discussions about who would be on the DEI Committee at the outset. Some combination of that probably would make sense here. They have some applications and anyone is able to apply at any time. They can see what the pool of applicants looks like and discuss it internally with the Mayor. It sounds like there is agreement to try to get someone appointed relatively soon. There is a meeting tonight with the neighborhood association leaders. Historically those organizations have

been good jumping off places for people who want to get involved in public service and more involved in our civic affairs here in Shaker. The more they can do to get people involved in the neighborhoods and on committees, the better. Maybe other names will appear throughout the year. They don't know all the reasons people leave, but they're starting to get a little more focused around some of the topics. It is worth considering if they should change the format in some way, what the expectations are for resident participation, or if they should be clearer about looking for folks to take some initiative and ownership of a project.

Ms. Kaufman asked if there is a job description for citizen members on the committee, and stated that it would be really helpful. It would be a way of explaining what it entails and what they expect from people.

Ms. Anne Williams agreed that would be helpful. For this committee and the Sustainability Committee, the role of citizen members is a little bit different than the rest of committees. They expect they will be well informed and read all the information provided before the meetings, but it's mainly going through agenda items on actions that the City is taking, but not necessarily asking them to do anything outside of that work. In that way there are different expectations. It is important to explain the expectations this committee has for citizen members, and what they can expect from the committee.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated in response to a question from the chat about whether they can meet at other times because making an 8:00 a.m. meeting is tough for people. They are hoping that when people have time they can work on some of the projects. These are meant as passion projects. They are obviously consistent with DEI goals and people have some flexibility in helping them set those goals. They have a couple more months before considering goals for next year so this is a time when people can jump in and generate new ideas.

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**Update on progress made on committee priorities, including reminder about Community Conversation on work of neighborhood association.**

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that they made some progress on a number of priorities including the point-of-sale process. The discussions segued into a very lengthy discussion at the Council retreat. There may be some tweaks to that program under consideration as a result of the DEI meeting held earlier in the year. He has done a little bit of building awareness of an alignment with City wide priorities with his recreation working group meetings. Obviously a lot more to come on that front as the School District goes forward with its plans. The list of minority-owned businesses and promotion of them is one area that might be worth a discussion at the next community meeting in August.

Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson stated that she is working with the Economic Development Director on a DEI community conversation for businesses to know how they want to be supported. There will be a community conversation with the business community this summer. She will report back on ways the committee can help them.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that they have a couple months to come up with topics for the next community conversation but that might not be a bad topic to focus on later in the year as well. They are having a meeting tonight on revitalizing neighborhoods and community engagement work. The



City is open to all ideas. They want to continue to support the work in Moreland and help it become more sustainable and resident led. They also want to engage residents in other neighborhoods to see if they can build cross neighborhood connections. Economic Development staff have had meetings on continuing the welcoming projects with the neighborhood association ambassadors in the library. That work continues as well. A couple of the other goals they set were things that didn't necessarily lend themselves to specific individual meetings like collecting qualitative data and feedback and establishing authentic connections with individuals in the community. Those obviously are bigger, longer term topics. They have made some progress on all of the goals, but they still have a lot of work to do. This is a time when a new resident or resident member of the committee could jump in and help to shape things going into 2024.

Ms. Kaufman stated that she noticed on social media that there was a Fernway neighborhood post about a barbecue event they're planning for September. It made her think about the meeting tonight and how there was a particular person on her street who was the head of the neighborhood association. She reached out to the person in Fernway who posted the event publicly and tagged a couple of other people who had said they were interested in it to let them know there was a community conversation meeting tonight. She saw what they were doing as engagement and inclusion work. There are many things like that that are happening that she doesn't know about. The purpose of the meeting tonight is bringing in neighborhood association leaders, but it made her think of other things.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that's exactly what they're trying to get at. He thinks about the beer garden that we used to have at the Van Aken district. He doesn't know why we can't have a beer garden/grill-off barbecue at Chelton Park and at a different neighborhood in Shaker another month. Those kinds of ideas are what they are hoping to spark here. He wonders how the City identifies these random events, supports them and helps others do similar things.

Ms. Anne Williams stated that Council members get a weekly notice about block parties and the people organizing the block parties. Sometimes they are very dynamic subsets of the neighborhoods. They have never made an attempt to reach out to the organizers, to ask if they want to be involved in a conversation about what they do.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that is a terrific idea because they are currently organizing for his block. He will go to his share this summer.

Ms. Anne Williams stated that there must be a way to connect them. She was thinking about a model for blocks that don't have block parties, who don't know how to get started, and how the committee can support them. It might have been helpful for tonight but it is something to look for in the future.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that they shouldn't look at this as a one-off. They should continue to engage with residents who are doing this work. He is looking at meeting with the neighborhood association leaders as a starting point. Maybe they can use the block party list for the next opportunity.

Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson stated that she would follow-up with comments made in the chat regarding equity in the sports committee that the school created, and reach out to them to see if there's any way from a City and recreation standpoint she can be involved. She will reach out to Dr. Burnley this afternoon.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

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Colleen Jackson, Chief DEI Officer



# SHAKER HEIGHTS

**DEI Committee Minutes  
City Hall Council Chambers  
Thursday, June 15, 2023  
7:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Council Chair Sean P. Malone  
Mayor David E. Weiss  
Council Member Anne Williams  
Citizen Member Julie Kaufman

Others Present: Chief Diversity Officer Colleen Jackson

The meeting was called to order by Council Chair Sean P. Malone at 7:00 p.m.

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Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that this is the first time the DEI Committee has held a hybrid meeting in Council Chambers. He appreciates everybody who is present in person as well as the handful who are online as well. They are trying to figure out what works best. They have all missed the in-person meetings, and they had a nice meeting at the library with the community conversation. He is seeing a lot of familiar faces and hoping to get some regulars who would be willing to help with this work.

**Approval of the March, 16, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that they will not be able to approve these minutes this evening because there is not a quorum, so they will be held until next time.

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**Approval of the May 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that they will not be able to approve these minutes this evening because there is not a quorum, so they will be held until next time.

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**Overview of the Committee’s annual goals and progress to date.**

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that he will briefly recap what the Committee is doing for the benefit of those who joined them for the first time at the community conversation. The DEI Committee is only a year and a half old. They started shortly after Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson was hired. At the Committee retreat they decided to eliminate the subcommittees hoping at the time that each subcommittee chair would take ownership of a particular project. They have had a little difficulty keeping resident members engaged on the Committee. He is open to feedback on ways they may

**CITY OF SHAKER HEIGHTS**

attract and retain committed residents to this work. At the Committee retreat, they eliminated subcommittees and decided to focus on specific goals for 2023. He will read them aloud and they may also be found on the City's website. The first goal is to understand and alleviate concerns about the fairness of the point-of-sale inspection program in Shaker. They had a great meeting a few months ago on that topic. There may be some tweaks to that program as a result of that. The second goal is to generate a list of minority-owned businesses to start promoting them a little more. That is still a work in progress. They will be meeting next month with some small business owners in general in the City.

Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson stated that the subject of the first community conversation was what people wanted to talk about related to DEI. One of the things that was discussed was to find a way to provide support for Shaker Heights small businesses. However, they didn't want to do that without first asking how businesses wanted to be supported. She will be meeting with the Economic Development Director to plan a DEI community conversation specifically for the Shaker Heights business community, including brick and mortar, and home-based businesses. They may ask Committee members to join the discussion to have diversity of thought around actualizing the way businesses request support.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that it is difficult to make business lists if people aren't reporting their home-based business. That's a work in progress as well. The third goal is to build awareness of and alignment around key City-wide priorities. This is a way of keeping people educated about these initiatives. One example is the Forward Together process, which the City and the schools are planning collaboratively with recreation. He has been meeting monthly about recreation, but as the schools start to roll out their plan in the next couple months, there will be more opportunities to have meetings around the school issues. The fourth goal is holding quarterly community meetings including community organizations. They have had three so far. They would like to follow up on the last one regarding neighborhood associations. The fifth goal is to revitalize neighborhood and community engagement work. The seventh goal is to establish authentic connections and relationships with individuals and organizations in the community. That is a long term project that a couple of prior resident members were really interested in doing. The eighth goal is collecting on an ongoing basis, critical, high quality, quantitative and qualitative data as a way of gathering feedback and information from residents to inform DEI work. The ninth goal is continuing the welcoming projects in conjunction with the library and Shaker Heights neighborhood ambassadors. These were the goals the Committee set for this year and they are listed on the website. They have made some progress but they haven't gotten where they were hoping partly because they lost some Committee members. He is hoping some of those present would be interested in joining the Committee.

#### **Discussion on recruiting candidates for appointment by the Mayor to the two vacant citizen positions on the Committee.**

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson has been in preliminary conversations with the Mayor about this as Council committee members are a Mayoral appointment. Council members provided input in creating the DEI Committee and he worked initially with Council members Carmella Williams and Anne Williams as well as the Mayor.

Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson stated that because of the nature of this committee, coming from the Human Relations Task Force which was resident led, the Mayor is open to residents interested in doing the work. The Committee has been in flux as they try to figure out the best way to do this work.

They looked at the Sustainability Committee model as well as others. They started with subcommittees and got rid of those, but they wanted to set goals with people who are fired up about those particular goals. They hope to fill the vacancies but the Mayor is open to supporting the way the Committee wants to do it.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that the DEI Committee had three resident members to begin with, and now they have one.

Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson stated that because they had so many people interested in participating, they had three resident members who serve as voting members and chairs of each subcommittee, with three more residents serving as vice chairs of those subcommittees. They are looking for three community members to work in conjunction with the three Council members. They need two more residents to fill the vacancies. They have been in conversations with people who have shown interest. They hope to have the vacancies filled by the end of the month. She asked for anyone with an interest to email her.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that the structure of a committee is more formal than a task force. The Human Relations Task Force had benefits and drawbacks. The hope by creating this formal DEI Committee is to have more support from the City. They have an appropriation of \$25,000 with a good portion set aside to allow residents to hold meetings. There is a form on the website people can fill out for reimbursement for expenses related to meetings about DEI to cover expenses like a meeting room, snacks, childcare, speaker fees and things of that nature.

Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson stated that the pool of money may be used to help support meetings that fall in line with DEI initiatives and DEI goals to support bringing together community members. If anyone is having a meeting that falls under that category they may complete the form and the Committee will review it.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that they hope to find people who have a passion for a particular project or goal. He listed the goals for this year, but they may change for next year. There is flexibility in how they do it but the goal is to have people report back to the DEI Committee. The only criteria is that the project is consistent with the City's DEI goals. The DEI mission is to be diverse, equitable, and inclusive in everything we do as a city in terms of providing service and also working with the community.

Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson stated that they held community conversations to inform people of these goals. Some of them will be ongoing. She feels that if some don't work they may shift or ask whether people are still passionate about those goals. If not, they may remove it and replace it with something that is urgent. There will still be some goals that remain.

Ms. Kaufman suggested interview questions to find out why people are not available including whether it was a time commitment, or the pace of things, to have a better understanding of what works. Over 90 people originally submitted applications with interest in DEI work. Although she was not initially selected as a Committee member she realized she could attend meetings online the same way as those who are present. The key is having your heart and mind in this work.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that Committee members serve terms of two years.

Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson stated that she believes new members will start in January with a two-year term.

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**Discussion on next steps for neighborhood engagement, including facilitating regular meetings of neighborhood leaders.**

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that he would love to facilitate ongoing meetings of neighborhood engagement. The timing and method of meetings may be important. They are talking about revisiting the timing of the 8:00 a.m. meeting. He feels like the in-person meetings are more productive.

Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson felt like this work would lend itself better to in-person meetings. The 8:00 a.m. time precluded some people from joining which is why they are trying evening meetings. As they expand the Committee and expand the work, they will be talking about the best time to meet. The typical structure for a Council Committee is that there is no public comment and they follow the agenda. However, the DEI Committee reads the comments because they want the diversity of thought. They are trying to figure out how to take this important work and fit it into the formal structure without the constraints of the Council Committee structure.

Council Chair Mr. Malone asked people to provide their email address so he may follow up with them.

Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson stated that they will pass along feedback to the Communications and Marketing Department about any challenges for viewers to find the meeting listing. The meeting is published in the eNews, and on the City's DEI web page. They are considering sending a specific DEI communication for the meetings. The DEI Committee does not have a Facebook page. You would need to be a resident to access it and someone would have to maintain the page, but they are working on ways to expand.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that the City should be thinking about DEI in everything they do, but it is going to take some time for the City's mindset to change. One person can't do it all. The City hasn't been doing a good job of meeting with neighborhood association leaders, or cultivating neighborhood association leaders and that may lead to a breakdown which could lead to mistrust. They are trying to strengthen the communication within the City and across neighborhood boundaries. There are nine neighborhoods and people describe themselves as being from one of them, but they should think more of themselves as part of the bigger community. He would love to meet with associations regularly. If the right people are talking to each other about the right issues that they care about it could be really productive. So many local groups are doing this kind of work. One of the challenges has been to publicize and make connections with people doing the work. On the City's website is a list of neighborhood associations and at least four or five are defunct or not meeting very often. A few are very active like Sussex, Lomond, and Moreland which has been a great success story. The City has supported Moreland pretty extensively, but we no longer have the outside consultant that the City was using. Part of what's motivating us is to make sure the Moreland work is sustainable and also making connections between Moreland and the rest of the community.

Chief DEI officer Ms. Jackson stated that the work that was going on in Moreland was more around networking. It was a reinvestment in a neighborhood that had not been invested in as it should have been. When she was hired people were excited by what was going on in Moreland and were craving it

in their neighborhood. The goal is not to resurrect every neighborhood association. In the polls of the community, they heard people wanted cross neighborhood engagement to know people from outside of their neighborhood and come together as a larger Shaker community. There is no plan to take what was happening in Moreland and spread it across other neighborhoods, but those principles ignited the desire for people to come together. They hope that before the year is over they can plan something as a Committee or collaborate and provide support for other events.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that some residents asked why there was not a Juneteenth celebration in Shaker Heights.

Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson stated that there is always a challenge as to whether the City should do something as the City, or support different groups within the City. The City would have to know those cultural celebrations are happening and if there was a DEI Facebook page that could be added.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that a lot of great stuff is happening but we have to spread the word.

Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson responded to a comment about neighbors of border cities. The DEI Committee is focused on the Lee Road Action Plan because some residents don't visit that part of Shaker. We don't have established relationships in the way we should with shared stakeholders so that is an interest.

Council Chair Mr. Malone asked if there are times or places people feel would work well to meet with neighborhood associations periodically.

One suggestion was that meeting monthly would be too often and quarterly too infrequent so bi-monthly might work.

Ms. Anne Williams stated that people who organize block parties are by nature engaged. She would like to see them invited to these meetings to represent the neighborhoods who do not have active associations.

Ms. Kaufman stated that people look to someone in authority and she understands that leaders are need to plan events, but the Committee needs to get better about saying to everyone they are part of it. To gather people from neighborhood association leaders is great, but there were also people posting about events who invited others which was an opportunity for her to in turn invite them to the DEI Committee and share information.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that he referenced the term leader as those persons who are posted on the City's website who are technically in charge of the neighborhood associations. That is just a starting point. If the meetings are held on a bi-monthly basis, everyone would be invited. The library is probably an ideal spot. In the summer they could also host something outside depending on the weather. The Human Relation Task Force experimented by having block parties inviting people from all over the City. It doesn't have to cost the City a lot of money.

Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson stated that the idea of a floating meeting that requires people to visit a neighborhood that's not their own is a great idea. She will begin circulating information for July.

Council Chair Mr. Malone asked those present to let others know who are not present. He asked if they can please get their emails and forward to Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson.

Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson stated that she will make sure people get an email invite for whatever event is coming up. She will figure out a location outdoors for a July gathering for those interested in this neighborhood engagement.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that they will identify opportunities. Potentially they could persuade the City to support this effort through better communication.

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**Planning for the August 31, 2023 Community Conversation.**

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that they were banding around a couple ideas involving youth issues. He continues to get interest from people in the Committee about either mentorship or tutoring opportunities with the Shaker Heights School District. There are a lot of residents who are empty nesters who don't feel connected to the schools or to the City and a lot of kids who are looking for opportunities in an uncertain economic future. That is another area of opportunity. One of the three subcommittees in the beginning was youth engagement. They haven't been able to make as much progress on that as they'd like. He hopes to have something youth centric.

Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson stated that she will be circulating something in July for a community conversation to get youth to participate so they can say how they are impacted and how the City can help. She will also reach out to the DEI Committee members, but it will be mostly a youth conversation. Some of the issues that came up at the Van Aken district are issues that come up at other places. Some people feel like youth are a problem. She wants to support the youth to see how the Committee may help. She does not want an over policing of young people. She is in agreement with the Chief of Police that is not what will be happening. They are in a relationship building phase between youth and the City and will not be taking steps backwards. They will have a conversation to figure out what is needed and wanted by young people. This is different from the August community conversation, which could also be youth engagement focused. It could be a follow up of something that comes out of that conversation. There was an age restriction in place at the Van Aken district but it had not been enforced. If you are under 17 you must be accompanied by an adult. We don't have a recreation center. We don't have a teen center, but all of our spaces are supposed to be inclusive. She does not pretend issues don't exist. The Van Aken district is such an integral part of our City so we want youth to be welcome there. Nobody wants to feel excluded. That was not their intention, so we need to have a conversation.

Police Chief Wayne Hudson stated that he has been traveling around the City having conversations with youth. He went to the library, Van Aken district and Thornton Park. He asked them if they would go to one of the schools if it was open during the summer and they said yes. He envisions grant money like the Stop the Violence grant from the Department of Justice where we can collaborate and schools can apply for money to pay teachers, cleaning staff, cafeteria staff, and get volunteers from law enforcement and recreation to provide fun activities for youth all at one location. They have to find something for youth to do. Where he grew up a bus picked up kids and took them to the local university where they had structured activities and fun.



Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson explained this is the Van Aken district is the youth's version of the mall in their neighborhood. She will reach out to Mitchell's and other places to have a conversation about this. A grant is the long term plan, but they need to be able to have conversations so youth don't feel it is us against them.

Someone commented about pizza and brownies at the library where there was someone who was very open who respected kids. They had marvelous conversations. Youth have expressed what they want but the space doesn't exist for them to hang out.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that the City will be doing a recreation study and asked for those who are concerned to please participate in the study. Hopefully it's a precursor to some improvements in our recreational facilities and the way we share our space.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that there will also be a forum involving the business community from a DEI perspective once we find out what they need. There will be a meeting on August 31<sup>st</sup> that would be youth focused around mentorship and tutoring and things of that nature. The tentative time would be 7:00 p.m.

Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson stated that she will speak to Dr. Glasner and Dr. Burnley about a collaboration where mentorship is concerned and maybe they can tell us about existing resources. One of the tricky parts is that we have a lot of non-parents in our community. The DEI Committee has really been trying to focus on people who are not directly connected to the schools. A lot of residents want to provide some collaboration but mostly resident led. They took a poll at the last meeting of how many people have students in the school and it was less than 30%.

Council Chair Mr. Malone stated that the overall statistics are much lower.

Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson stated that teachers are the best resource to pull from, but she wants the DEI Committee to support the work they do so when the kids show up in the classroom they feel more welcome.

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**New ideas/feedback.**

Someone commented that Eastview Church got a grant for teen drop in time during the summer.

Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson stated that if she gets the flyer she will provide it to the Communications and Marketing Department for disseminating.

Police Chief Wayne Hudson stated that on August 1<sup>st</sup> from 6 – 8 p.m. the Police Department will host their first National Night out, which is done all across the United States. It is a time for neighbors to get to know other neighbors. They are going to have one big event outside the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Community Building at the Colonnade. They are asking all the neighborhoods to come out and enjoy free food and a DJ with all the law enforcement resources like the canine dogs so the kids can get to know the local law enforcement officers and remove any mystery. There will be conversations on how to keep the community, businesses and their homes safe. It is a collaboration with the Police Department, schools and library.

Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson stated they are still in the planning stage but there will be more information to come.

Police Chief Wayne Hudson stated that there is already an adult Citizen Police Academy, but from August 14<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup> there will be a youth Citizen Police Academy to indoctrinate youth on what law enforcement does to make connections with youth in the community. It is for ages 14 to 18. The youth will be taking their place one day so they want to make connections.

Chief DEI Officer Ms. Jackson stated that the next DEI Committee meeting is on July 20<sup>th</sup> in City Hall Council Chambers in person at 7:00 p.m.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

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Colleen Jackson, Chief DEI Officer