

Diversity Affairs Commission (DAC) - Steering Committee Thursday, August 4, 2022 • 5:30pm

**James P. Coughlin Center (JPCC)
625 E. County Road Y, Suite 600
Oshkosh, WI 54901-8131**

Mission: *"Winnebago County's Diversity Affairs Commission embraces diversity, inclusion, and belonging by bringing the community together to listen to one another, learn together, and encourage our community to act in ways that help people thrive. We support justice, equity and compassion in human relations. We affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person."*

Recordings of the meeting are located at

1. Winnebago County Website:

https://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/county-clerk/zoom-recordings?field_committee_name_nid=18122

2. Meeting Location #2 (using link location published on County Website):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JxZKfOG8TK8>

Supervisor Rachael Dowling called the Steering Committee meeting of the Diversity Affairs Commission (DAC) to order at 5:32pm. Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were:

Present:, Rachel Dowling Winnebago County Board Supervisor District 1, Kay Horan Winnebago County Board Supervisor District 5, Jared Longsine, Kathryn Noll-Arias, and Tameesha Jackson

Absent: None

Others Present: Thomas Borchart Winnebago County Board Supervisor District 3, Shanah Zastera Winnebago County Board Supervisor District 32.

Previous Meeting Minutes: These were unavailable to be approved from the May 2022 meeting.

Election of Officers:

Chairperson: Jared Longsine nominated by LONGSINE, seconded by HORAN, elected unanimously.

Vice-Chairperson: Rachael Dowling nominated by DOWLING, seconded by LONGSINE, elected unanimously.

Secretary: Kay Horan by nominated by NOLL-ARIAS, seconded by DOWLING, elected unanimously.

Public Comment:

- The Steering Committee introduced themselves.
- Tom Borchart Winnebago County Supervisor District 3 asked about the status of the two vacancies on the DAC. Dowling noted the bylaws of the DAC, and the steps to have new appointments.
- Conley Hanson Winnebago County Board Supervisor District 26 asked would like a copy of the DAC bylaws. Dowling said she would send them to him.

Business Agenda

Review and Amend DAC Bylaws:

- DOWLING – Article V – Amend to add the words to the section that states Line 2 states, “Shall be held at a location.” Dowling wanted to add “or online.” This would allow for members to join on Zoom if they would like. Longsine asked is it could be stated “online or in person.” Noll-Arias noted a typo “t/o” that should be fixed to be “to.” JACKSON seconded the motion. **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- DOWLING – Article V – To clear up confusion between the County Board and the DAC Bylaws, Dowling would like to add a paragraph “All Diversity Affairs Commission meetings and events, held in-person or online must be recorded.”

Horan asked for clarification if this included the educational meetings, and if the speakers were offered a stipend. Noll-Arias discussed the difference between the Steering Committee Meetings and the Educational Meetings. Noll-Arias felt that getting speakers to share their stories would be difficult if the sessions were recorded and wanted to know if there would be an option for speakers to opt-out. Other members discussed the value of reaching a broader audience if they are recorded. A way to navigate around the issue of recording would potentially not have the DAC involved in these educational sessions. They would directly run through a team outside of the County Board’s purview. However, at this time all meetings, including educational meetings, should be recorded per Corporate Council and the County Board Rules.

One member of the group interpreted that as it should either be live streamed **or** it could be digitally broadcast and recorded. A couple of the members thought that it meant that it could be live streamed and recorded **or** digitally broadcast and recorded. It was determined that it is the latter.

Jackson notes that these proposed changes cannot be voted on in the same meeting. This is evidenced in Article VII. All three amendments will have a non-binding vote and then they will be added to the next meeting. **Motion tabled 2-2 and one abstention.**

- DOWLING – Article II – To add a sentence at the end of the Mission Statement that says, “Diversity is to include freedom of thought, expression, and different religious beliefs.” Discussion of necessity of inclusion of the sentence, and if there was a need to have it. **Motion PASSED 4-1.**

Future of the DAC:

- NOLL-ARIAS – We need to determine a static meeting time each month. Perhaps another Google Form to determine best times to meet.
- DOWLING – Asked Noll-Arias about the background of the bylaws and the necessity of them. It was noted they have hindered the work of the DAC.
- HORAN – Discussion about the functionality of the DAC and the struggle of keeping this group moving forward.
- LONGSINE – Dissolution of the Diversity Affairs Commission and send this dissolution to either the UW Education, Extension and Agriculture or the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors based on the council of Mary Anne Mueller. Seconded by DOWLING. **Passed 4-1.**

Some of the stated reasons for dissolution includes turnover of several Steering Committee Members; too broad of a Mission Statement; function of the organization could be handled in other groups, committees, and commissions; there are no statutory reasons for there to be a DAC; the DAC is redundant.

Noll-Arias does believe there is a value for a segment of people in the community.

- HORAN – The Wisconsin County Association has a DEI Meeting on August 25, 2022 from 3PM-5PM at Holiday Inn (Paper Valley Hotel) 333 College Ave, Appleton, WI.
- HORAN – Asked Mary Anne Mueller about recording resolutions going through the County Board of Supervisors. These would likely be dealt with in September.
- NOLL-ARIAS – If we can get passed these issues, Winnebago County will be more inclusive.
- LONGSINE – Motion not to meet until the issue of dissolution has been dealt with by either the UW Education, Extension, or Agriculture or the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors. Seconded by Dowling. Motion was pulled back by Longsine after discussion.
- NOLL-ARIAS – Next Educational Meeting is **September** *Older Adults and Aging*.

Meeting Times & Dates - (Longsine)

The group agreed to meet on September 8, 2022 at 5:30PM at James P. Coughlin Center (JPCC); 625 E. County Road Y, Suite 600; Oshkosh, WI 54901-8131

HORAN will work with the UW Extension, Education and Agriculture team to ensure we have the proper recording equipment in place.

Adjournment – (Longsine)

HORAN – Motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Dowling. **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**