

Committee on Community Diversity
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 29, 2008
5:00 PM
Administrative Conference Room
Municipal Government Center

Committee Members:

<u> </u> Helen Cuff	<u> </u> Nicole K. Burton
<u> </u> Terry Wright	<u> </u> Gordon Wise
<u> </u> Larry Hamilton	<u> </u> Bill Vogt
<u> </u> Fred Enderle	

1. Call Meeting to Order

With the absence of an elected chairperson, Fred Enderle called the meeting to order. He noted that all but Helen Cuff was present, but that she had indicated she would be late due a previous appointment.

2. Review Community Diversity Charge (Attached as Exhibit "A")

The Committee reviewed the charge statement as presently adopted by City Commission. Fred Enderle explained that the charge could be amended but it had to be an agreed upon by both the Committee and the City Commission.

A Motion was made by Larry Hamilton, seconded by Terry Wright and carried to table the Committee Charge until the next meeting to give member additional time to consider amendments.

3. Election of Officers

a. Chairman

A Motion was made by Gordon Wise, seconded by Larry Hamilton and carried to elect Terry Wright as chairman.

b. Vice Chairman

A Motion was made by Gordon Wise, seconded by Bill Vogt and carried to elect Larry Hamilton as vice chairman.

c. Secretary

A Motion was made by Bill Vogt, seconded by Larry Hamilton and carried to elect Nicole Burton as secretary.

4. New Business

a. Meeting Notices

Terry Wright asked how the agenda and meeting notices would be handled. Fred Enderle suggested his office would send meeting reminders two weeks before the next meeting and a meeting agenda the week before the meeting. He indicated he would draft agendas and send them to Terry for approval before sending out.

b. Review of Ad Hoc Diversity Committee Recommendations to City Commission

There was general discussion of the recommendations of Ad Hoc Committee to the City Commission. Most members indicated a need for clarification on committees focus. Larry Hamilton challenged the committee to define the word "diversity" as it can have multiple meanings. One question brought to the forefront was; how diverse is the City Of Piqua (in comparison to State and National levels). Bill Vogt indicated that he has received complaints from business & industry leaders of the lack of qualified employees and the ability to retain employees. Helen Cuff also was aware of the lack of hiring of minority candidates in Piqua businesses. Terry Wright voiced completion of the local G.E.D. program has drastically dropped in recent years. Nicole Burton suggested asking local financial institutions, YMCA, YWCA, and other Christian outreach ministries to assist in accessing the public. Helen Cuff thought MainStreet Piqua might play a vital role in recruiting citizens to be more active in the community. Fred Enderle said that we also have the support of Grow Piqua Now and other the City offices. He also mentioned the possibility of having School Superintendent Rick Hanes sit in on a committee meeting and discuss Piqua City School programs.

Some of the committee members felt as if we need to narrow focus to existing or potential problems already facing the City of Piqua. Some of the committee members felt as if this is a foundation to start rebuilding self-esteem and confidence in the citizens of our town. Mentoring, Job Shadowing and Financial Education are some of empowering issues we need.

Larry Hamilton thought it would be helpful to develop a glossary of terms, perhaps federal guidelines could be a place to start.

c. Next Steps

1. Committee members review recommendations for further development.
2. Committee to agree on what is Diversity – Fred Enderle will prepare a glossary of terms to assist in discussion.
3. Consider who else to bring into discussions (i.e. Piqua School Superintendent, Compassion Network, Chamber of Commerce, etc.)

5. Next Meeting

Tuesday, August 26, 2008 beginning at 5:00 P.M. in the City Administrative Conference Room located on the 2nd floor.

6. Adjourn

A Motion was made by Bill Vogt, seconded by Gordon Wise and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 P.M.