



# PORTAGE COUNTY

## MEETING MINUTES

### DIVERSITY AFFAIRS AND INCLUSIVENESS COMMITTEE

PORTAGE COUNTY ANNEX  
CONFERENCE ROOMS 1 & 2  
1462 STRONGS AVENUE  
STEVENS POINT, WI 54481

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Thursday, October 21, 2021

4:30 PM

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#### REMOTE ATTENDANCE & COMMENT

To attend this meeting by telephone : dial 1-608-338-1399, after dialing the number you will then be asked to enter in a meeting number. Use the following meeting number: 659 662 615, then press #

To attend this meeting by video: [Click here to join the meeting.](#)

Due to COVID-19 and the potential risk to members of the public who attend meetings in-person, any person who plans to attend the meeting remotely, but wishes to comment on an agenda item can send their comments via email to cummingp@co.portage.wi.us. The deadline for sending comments by email is 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting. Emailed comments will be delivered to committee members at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. Remote comment by the public during the meeting will be at the discretion of the Chair.

**Face coverings are required for in-person attendance unless an exemption applies.**

#### CALL TO ORDER

The Diversity Affairs and Inclusiveness (DA&I) Committee meeting was called to order at 4:45 pm by Committee Chair Johnson in Conference Rooms 1&2 of the Portage County Annex.

Members Attending In-Person: Meleesa Johnson and Mykeerah Zarazua

Members Attending Virtually: Dennis Raabe and Ahmie-Woma Farkus

Others Attending In-Person: Ray Reser, Vinnie Miresse, Jack Elsinger, Keith Kedrowski, Fred Kalkofen, Shannon Semmerling and Robin Falk

Others Attending Virtually: Nancy Schott

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

**Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order.**

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of September 16, 2021 minutes

Motion by Zarazua, second by Raabe to approve the DA&I Committee meeting minutes of September 16, 2021. Motion to approve passed by voice vote, with no negative votes.

#### PRESENTATION

2. Indigenous Burial Ground at UWSP and Other Indigenous Culturally Significant Areas in Portage County- Presentation by Ray Reser, Emeritus Professor of Archaeology, Curator of Anthropology Museum of Natural History at UWSP

Reser provided a verbal narrative, along with slides, during his informative presentation. Cultural Resource Management Plans and Mapping were noted during his presentation and will be an item for discussion at an upcoming DA&I meeting.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

3. Correspondence from Committee Chair Johnson

Johnson referenced her correspondence, which was part of the agenda packet.

4. Correspondence from Human Resources Director Laura Belanger Tess

Johnson referenced correspondence included in the agenda packet from Human Resources Director Belanger-Tess, which addressed the felony or misdemeanor question on the County's employment application.

**DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION**

5. Discussion/Possible Action Re: Regarding Special Meeting Attendance (Portage County Ordinance 3.1.47 & 3.1.48)

- Request for special meeting attendance
- Approval of attendance of special meetings
- Special meeting attendance reports

No special meeting attendance forms nor requests received.

6. Discussion: Input from Members on Items for DA&I Committee Resource Page for Possible Addition to Portage County Website

Johnson referred to the draft resource page included in the agenda packet. Members will continue to refine items to be included on this page.

7. Discussion on United Way of Wisconsin's Equity Challenge  
<https://www.unitedwaywi.org/page/equity-challenge>

Johnson referred to the United Way of Wisconsin Equity Challenge handout included in the agenda packet. She encouraged members to join the challenge and to share with each other any take-aways they have at the conclusion of the challenge.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

8. November 18, 2021 at 4:30 pm in Conference Rooms 1&2, County Annex Building First Floor

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Farkas, second by Zarazua, to adjourn. Motion passed by voice vote, with no negative votes. Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

*Notice: Any person who has special needs and plans on attending this meeting in-person or remotely should contact the Facilities Office at 715-346-1598 as soon as possible to ensure that reasonable accommodations can be made.*

*Notice: A quorum of the Portage County Board of Supervisors, or any committee thereof, may be present at this meeting.*