



PORTAGE COUNTY

MEETING MINUTES

DIVERSITY AFFAIRS AND INCLUSIVENESS COMMITTEE

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

Thursday, December 16, 2021

4:30 PM

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: 979 190 807, 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 4:34 pm by Committee Vice-Chair Raabe in Conference Rooms 1&2 of the Portage County Annex.

Members Attending In-Person: Dennis Raabe, Mykeerah Zarazua, Meleesa Johnson, Joan Honl

Others Attending In-Person: Deb Smith and Lisa Chapman (Berkshire-Hathaway), Planning and Zoning Director Jeff Schuler, Jack Elsinger, Robin Falk, Fred Kalkofen, Keith Kedrowski, and Shannon Semmerling

Note: Due to a technical issue, virtual attendees could not enter the meeting.

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.

Elsinger, Falk and Kedrowski registered to speak on items 3-5.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of October 21, 2021 Minutes

Without a quorum present at this time, action on this item is postponed until the next DA&I Committee meeting.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

2. 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.

3. Discussion: Berkshire-Hathaway Response to Community Business Outreach Letter from Diversity Affairs and Inclusiveness Committee – Deb Smith, Project Manager with Berkshire-Hathaway

Smith and Chapman gave a presentation regarding the longstanding Berkshire-Hathaway (BH) culture of diversity and inclusiveness.

They went on to provide a brief overview of the operations of BH. Both individuals answered questions asked in the DA&I Committee's business outreach letter. They credited the community's open dialogue as an important feature related to diversity and inclusiveness, and described the community as family-centric and safe as reflected in fact that people who come to the community often remain in the community. BH conducts community outreach to the university, technical college, and schools to aid in securing employees, and when asked if outreach to inmates took place, they noted they would take that possibility back with them for discussion.

4. Discussion: Cultural Resource Mapping as Noted During the Indigenous Culturally Significant Areas Presentation Given in October 2021

Johnson noted she spoke to County Executive Holman and Schuler after the indigenous culturally significant areas presentation held at a recent DA&I Committee meeting asking if there was a role in Portage County for mapping of these areas. It was agreed to be a good idea that could go before the Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Committee for discussion. Schuler stated the County's Comprehensive Plan has a cultural resource section, which would be an appropriate place to include this mapping project. Raabe felt it a good idea to have more hands-on knowledge of where indigenous people walked in our area, as well as where others in the community are from. Johnson suggested addressing what the process is for residents who encounter a culturally significant site on their property. Schuler noted a new P&Z Director would be coming on board in January 2022 and this item could be sent to the P&Z Committee for discussion. Johnson will speak to the P&Z Committee Chair as well.

5. Discussion: Diversity Affairs and Inclusiveness Committee Community Resource Webpage, Including Committee Member Liaison to Work with CREATE Portage County and the County Executive Office

Johnson noted the DA&I Committee discussed placing a resource page on the County's website and the group CREATE Portage County has offered funds to assist in building this page. She suggested a DA&I Committee member liaison could assist in this process by working with the County Executive and CREATE. Not all DA&I Committee members were able to attend today's meeting; therefore, this item was postponed until the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE

6. January 20, 2022 at 4:30 pm in Conference Rooms 1 & 2, County Annex Building, First Floor

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Raabe to adjourn and seconded by Zarazua. Motion passed by voice vote, with no negative votes. Meeting adjourned at 5:41 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.