



PORTAGE COUNTY

MEETING MINUTES

DIVERSITY AFFAIRS AND INCLUSIVENESS COMMITTEE

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

Thursday, February 17, 2022

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: 655 502 299, 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 jentzl@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.

CALL TO ORDER

The Diversity Affairs and Inclusiveness Committee meeting was called to order at 04:30 PM

Members Present: Mykeerah Zarazua, Joan Honl, Christopher Benny, Dennis Raabe, Meleesa Johnson

Attending In-Person: Mykeerah Zarazua, Joan Honl, and Meleesa Johnson

Attending Online: Christopher Benny and Dennis Raabe (audio only)

Members Excused: Ahmie-Woma Farkas

Staff Attending In-Person: Chief Deputy County Clerk Jentz

Others Attending In-person: Supervisors Miresse and Soik and members of the public

Others Attending Online: Eric Yonke, Eric Yonke, Co-Sponsorship Coordinator, Ethiopian Community Development Council

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 October 21, 2021 minutes
2. Approval of December 16, 2021 minutes

A motion was made by Dennis Raabe, seconded by Mykeerah Zarazua, to approve both sets of minutes.

Chair Johnson stated that Supervisor Honl was listed as a guest for the December meeting but should have been marked as a present member.

Motion to approve the minutes with the correction as stated above carried by voice vote, with no negative votes.

Ahmie-Woma Farkas joined the meeting online at 4:39p.m.

PRESENTATION

3. Educational Presentation: ECDC Multicultural Community Center of Wausau- Helping Afghan refugees adjust to their new home of central Wisconsin: Eric Yonke, Co-Sponsorship Coordinator

Eric Yonke, Co-Sponsorship Coordinator, Ethiopian Community Development Council, shared the work the organization has been doing to help Afghan refugees settle in the Central Wisconsin area, particularly in Wausau with a few families also in Stevens Point. More information can be found at the New Beginnings for Refugees WI website: <https://newbeginningswi.org/> or by contacting Eric

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

4. 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.

5. Discussion: Update Re: Cultural Resource Mapping and Planning & Zoning Committee

Chair Johnson stated that she had spoken with Supervisor Larry Raikowski, Chair of the Planning and Zoning Committee, regarding the Cultural Resource Mapping. Chair Johnson believed that Supervisor Raikowski was receptive to adding this topic to a future Planning and Zoning Committee agenda.

NEXT MEETING DATE

March 17, 2022 at 4:30 pm in Conference Rooms 1 & 2, County Annex Building, First Floor

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Honl, seconded by Raabe to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote.
Meeting adjourned at 05:16 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.