

**VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN  
DIVERSITY & INCLUSION COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, February 4, 2021 7:00 P.M.**

**32325 Franklin Road, Franklin, Michigan 48025**

**The Diversity & Inclusion Committee did not assemble at a physical place;  
the meeting was held electronically via “Zoom.us©”, in accordance with the  
Michigan Open Meetings Act, as amended by 2020 PA 228**

The meeting was called to order by David Sahli at 7:00 P.M.

**PRESENT**

David Sahli, Pam Hansen, Mark Hanke, Fred Gallasch, Sashi Chilakapati, and Katelyn Zachritz.

**ABSENT**

Kathy Erlich and Cassius Drake

**ALSO PRESENT**

Heather Mydloski, Village Clerk

**OLD BUSINESS**

Hanke Created an Excel file for the collection of data for supporting community D&I initiatives.

**DISCUSSION**

Sahli listed the four (4) applicants as: Vincent Shurk, Kat Philips, Liz Connelly, and Denise Jacobs.

Sahli asked the Committee if they had reviewed the four (4) applicants and/or if anyone knew any of the applicants.

Hanke did not know any of the four but read all of their submissions and fully supported their appointments to the committee.

Hansen spoke to a written exchange with Denise Jacobs during her campaign. Hansen referenced her as thoughtful and committed to the Village.

Zachritz stated her interaction with Shurk because she knows him, and he has a strong representation for the LGBTQ Community. She was also impressed with Philips list of qualifications and had met her once.

Sahli does not know any of them. He stated they were all great candidate with a passion for the initiative.

Chilakapati asked what the Resolution to Formally Recognize Black History Month meant to the community tangibly.

Sahli mentioned that it was a first action, and the intent is to have an activity plan for next year after the formal Resolution is instituted by the Council.

Zachnitz informed the Committee that there are missed opportunities by community organizations to recognize Black History Month.

Hanke mentioned that his corporate experience creates an expectation for a leader to speak on a D&I topic and affords the opportunity for the other leaders to engage in the conversation. Hanke suggested asking each Village Council member to offer their thoughts on Black History Month.

Sahli agreed.

Hansen loved the idea and further expanded that the focus should be on their perception of Black History Month as it equates to the community as opposed to only their personal opinions.

Zachnitz also has a corporate D&I initiative and they talk about a diversity and/or inclusion moment that is trending to bring relevancy to the table of discussion.

Gallasch and Zachnitz suggested the Council is given a notice in advance so they are adequately prepared to speak on the topic and do not feel uncomfortable or singled out. Hanke agreed he did not want it to be a gotcha game with the Council.

Hanke asked the Committee to look through the Google docs and information presented in them to learn what best practices we could incorporate in the Village.

Zachnitz asked that we work toward a D&I spot on the Village Website.

Mydloski asked the committee to consider a lead by example approach to present to the Council and allow for comment rather than ask which one to speak, fostering more of an inclusion mindset that does not exclude anyone if they are not able to articulate their view on Black History.

Hanke stated that it is necessary for the Council to lead in this regard.

Hansen and Sahli stated that dialogue is important, but it is imperative for the Council Members to be included in keeping with the spirit of the committee.

### **NEW BUISNESS**

#### **A. Motion to accept all four (4) candidates on to the Diversity and Inclusion Committee.**

<b>David Sahli</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Pam Hansen</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**Mark Hanke**            **AYE**  
**Fred gallasch**        **AYE**  
**Sashi Chilakapati**    **AYE**  
**Katelyn Zachritz**    **AYE**

**Motion Carried.**

**B. Motion to present to the Village Council a Resolution to Formally Recognize the Month of February as Black History Month.**

**RESOLUTION TO FORMALLY RECOGNIZE THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY AS  
BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month provides us the opportunity to honor and celebrate the extraordinary contributions Black Americans have made in delivering personal liberties and shaping our country, our culture, and our communities. Black History Month also provides an opportunity for reflection on the unconscionable sacrifice made by so many Black Americans in the advancement of civil rights, the pursuit of justice, and commitment to equality for all.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, on this date Monday, the 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2021, the Village Council for the Village of Franklin hereby formally recognizes the month of February as Black History Month.

**David Sahli**            **AYE**  
**Pam Hansen**           **AYE**  
**Mark Hanke**            **AYE**  
**Fred Gallasch**        **AYE**  
**Sashi Chilakapati**    **AYE**  
**Katelyn Zachritz**    **AYE**

**Motion Carried.**

**C. Motion for the Village Council to be presented with the opportunity to speak to their experience/view of Black History Month.**

**David Sahli**            **AYE**  
**Pam Hansen**           **AYE**  
**Mark Hanke**            **AYE**  
**Fred Gallasch**        **AYE**  
**Sashi Chilakapati**    **AYE**  
**Katelyn Zachritz**    **AYE**

**Motion Carried.**

Committee discussion on:

- Black History Month
- New Committee Members
- D&I Calendar for 2021

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 7:00 PM.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 P.M.

Heather Mydloski  
Village Clerk