

**DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMISSION
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Meeting
January 5, 2026
6:00 p.m.
Large Meeting Room
Staunton Public Library

PRESENT: Belinda Polgar, Ian Callahan, Mark Jeter, Jordan Zipser

ABSENT: n/a

ALSO PRESENT: community member

Jordan called the meeting open at 6:09 p.m.

1. Meeting Schedule Discussion

- a. Follow-up on scheduling request from Morgan
- b. Agreed not to meet on Labor Day 2026, Ian to send follow up email to Morgan

2. Belonging Event

- a. Event start TBD, to conclude May 2026
- b. Discussed positive response from School Board and Dr. Irizarry
- c. Agreed Belinda and Jordan will attend meeting with SB and Dr. Irizarry
- d. Jordan to coordinate meeting time

3. DEI Messaging

- a. Effort in work
- b. Current focus is to be able to define/answer: what is DEI, how to describe DEI to a community member, what is the commission currently doing to support belonging in Staunton
- c. Will plan to discuss at the full commission meeting on the 21st

4. Mutual Aid Event

- a. Target event date: September 2026
- b. Event intentions - practical, inclusive, comprehensive, accessible, fun, community building
- c. Mutual aid opportunities - housing, transportation, health (mental/physical), food, senior care, child care, employment
- d. Space needs considerations - population focus, bus accessibility, walkability, room for large vehicles, open space for tables/booths
- e. Next Steps
 - i. Step 1: research - see what's already going on in the area
 - ii. Step 2: review gaps in current offerings and determine event scope and offerings

5. Board and Commission Outreach - meet and greet

- a. Target event date: March 2026
- b. Outreach to

- i. Transportation
- ii. Housing
- iii. Library
- iv. School Board

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.