

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

Meeting
April 1, 2026
6:00 p.m.
Staunton City Library

PRESENT: Ian Callahan, Mark Jeter, Jordan Zipser

ABSENT: Belinda Polgar

Jordan called the meeting open at 6:08 p.m.

1. Lewis Creek Watershed Discussion follow up

- a. Ian followed up with Fred via LinkedIn
- b. Offered the following suggestions
 - i. reach out to Jeff O., about recommendations and findings
 - ii. lean on college and biology studies for interns that can support the additional testing, while also acknowledging that he was looking for consistency
 - iii. offered to share full findings with the commission if he can send information to us - have not heard back from Fred yet
- c. Reviewed goals and action items to ensure subcommittee alignment when new asks come in

2. Recommendations to Council Process

- a. what is the mechanism for making a timely recommendation to city council should it come up and fall within DEI purview
- b. Bylaws section 6C indicates that we can make recommendations to council as “deems appropriate”
- c. Mark advised that this item is on the Commission Leadership meeting next week

3. Belonging Event

- a. Jordan provided update
- b. meeting scheduled with Dr. Irizarry on April 20th to follow up

4. Board and Commission Outreach

- a. options discussed
- b. inviting them to attend ours to start
- c. if they are not able to attend our meetings, we’ll look at other options for connecting
- d. already identified several boards
- e. will work to get invitations out by the end of the month - will coordinate over email

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.