

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

Meeting
May 6, 2026
5:00 p.m.
Board Room
2nd Floor, Staunton Public Library
1 Churchville Ave.

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

Jordan called the meeting open at 6:14 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes

- Review of April minutes: no edits; Mark and Belinda approved

2. School Belonging Event Update

- Belinda met with Dr. Irizarry on April 20— discussed timeline and concept. Adjusting to align with Staunton City verbiage (i.e., using words and phrases related to belonging); expanding it to include K-12 grades
- Activity will happen somewhere between late mid-November
- Can create and monetize a calendar that features the art
 - Overall, meeting was super receptive to ideas of diversity and inclusion among young people
 - Belinda also met with Angus at the Art Center regarding showcasing the photos of youth in the city — need to explore details about this partnership and what it will entail (headcount; costs, if any; etc.)
- Belinda and Jordan have a shortlist of items related to budget, costs, and the Commission's ability to participate in raising funds (e.g., potentially sell a calendar, etc.)
 - Opportunity to table outside of the Center on Beverley Street — can we / should we have a donation box?
- Jordan and Belinda to provide budget line from Dr. Irizarry

3. Community Resource Event

- Because there are number of events like this happening already, it's important that we try to attend and boost them as much as possible.
 - E.g., Health and Wellness Fair in Staunton
- Subcommittee identified there's an opportunity for us to recommend such events for City of Staunton calendars, social media, and communications
- Moving forward, our larger Commission's Round the Circle could be a three-ish month projection of upcoming events that can also inform City planning and communications

4. Boards and Commission Outreach

- Mark will prep note for subcommittee members to send to the following Boards:
 - Library
 - Tourism
 - Housing
 - School Board

5. Other Business

- Alice's participation
 - AnhThu and Mark met with Alice — suggesting regular attendance so that quarterly, we can make more direct suggestions to City Council on a more regular basis.
 - Will discuss this more in our next Commission meetings.
- Branding and marketing
 - Can we brand or advertise our DEI Commission work somehow? A question for the City Council

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.