

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMISSION

Meeting
June 17, 2026

6:00 p.m.

School Board Conference Room
City Hall, 2nd Floor

PRESENT: Raven Bruno
Sabrina Burress (remote participant)
Ian Callahan
Cecilia Carpenter
Mark Jeter, Vice Chair
Charles Lawson
AnhThu Nguyen, Chair
Belinda Osario Polgar
Antwhon Suiter
Jordan Zipser

ABSENT: Natalie Slater
Alice Woods, Council Liaison

ALSO PRESENT: Leslie Beauregard, City Manager
Morgan Smith, City Manager's Office

AnhThu Nguyen called the meeting open at 6:03 p.m.

AnhThu stated “we received a request from Sabrina Burress to participate remotely in the June 17, 2026 DEI Commission meeting due to a personal matter that prevents her physical attendance at the meeting. I will now entertain a motion for her to participate.”

Charles Lawson moved to allow Sabrina to remotely participate in the June 17, 2026 DEI Commission meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

AnhThu asked Sabrina to state the location from which she was participating. Sabrina responded that she was at 40 Lambert St, Staunton. AnhThu asked the commission and the audience if they could hear Sabrina. The response was affirmative.

As this was Sabrina's last meeting on the DEI Commission, AnhThu thanked Sabrina for her service to the city and the commission and Sabrina shared the following when asked if she had any words for the Commission:

“Wisdom, hope. I feel like those are two different things, but no, I mean, you know, so, so one of the things I think that I would say is continue to work with our, our city members, so that's something that feels that has been really resonant across my time, is that if we show up and say this is what we need, that our city officials have shown up for us, so I would say continue to do that, and trust that we have a good city council, we have good city managers, we have good city staff, and that may not always be the case, but it feels important to note that as I'm sort of transitioning out, and then the other thing I think in terms. Of just like the reminder of the mountain will always look really big, so we need to

be taking small and intentional steps, and not trying to get to the top of the mountain in like two seconds. That would be what I would share.”

City Manager Leslie Beauregard also thanked Sabrina for her service and for being such a strong partner.

1. Approval of Minutes

Cecilia Carpenter moved to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2026 DEI Commission meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Charles and carried unanimously.

2. Discuss Roles of Chair and Vice Chair

Leslie noted that the updated Commission bylaws had not been officially signed, so a digital copy will be shared with the members so that any changes can be made and staff will make sure they get fully executed.

AnhThu shared that she no longer wished to be chair after her term expires, so a discussion ensued regarding the roles of chair and vice chair.

- Subcommittees – should the chair and vice chair be on the separate committees, but not serve as chair of either? Chair and Vice Chair cannot serve on the same subcommittee will be added to the bylaws.
- Nominations are to be sent to AnhThu for the positions of chair/vice chair and she can bring them forward to the July meeting for vote.

3. Draft Policy about DEI Calendar of Events

AnhThu presented a draft policy for a public DEI calendar of events. Commission members discussed language changes to 4.1 and 5.1, and that there would be a co-administrator, so the work was not on just one person, also that a template would be created for approval or denial of events.

Charles moved to approved the calendar policy with the additional language to 4.1 and 5.1. The motion was seconded by Cecilia and carried unanimously.

4. Subcommittee Report Outs

- a. Community Connections – The subcommittee shared that Belinda would be putting together the official proposal for the Belonging event. They also shared that they would be reaching out to the Library Advisory Board, the Housing Commission, and the Tourism Advisory Board.
- b. Data and Research – AnhThu and Charles shared that they had a strong session with the City’s management team and that they needed to talk next steps with Leslie.

5. Sharing Community Concerns

A brief discussion ensued regarding the pilot program on Beverley Street.

AnhThu shared that she will be meeting with Aaron Barmer to help identify his concerns. She also shared that 16 neighbors were detained in Luray and Page County.

6. Going ‘Round the Circle!

- Ian reminded everyone about Yoga in the Park, near the bandstand on Saturdays
- Make sure to check out the LGBTQ Center website or on Facebook for PRIDE events throughout June.
- Juneteenth celebration on Saturday, June 20 at Montgomery Hall Park from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.