

Town of Matthews NC Cultural Diversity Council Meeting Notes
September 26, 2017

Members Present: Angela Lee, Bob Hughes, Sarah Milledge, Jermaine Milledge, Nikki Keith and Matthew French

Town of Matthews Staff: Hazen Blodgett
Visitor: Ann Fields, Community Visitor

The meeting was called to order by Town Manager, Hazen Blodgett. Hazen reminded the group that chair Linda Hendley has resigned from the council for personal reasons. Hazen shared that the board will appoint a new member to fill her role. In the interim, the board needs to elect a new chair.

Hazen called for nominations. Sarah Milledge nominated Matthew French. It was seconded by Becky Thompson. Hazen asks for additional nominations. Hearing none, he called for a vote. Motion carries unanimously. Matthew French is the new chair.

Angela Lee led group through work plan to establish goals and objectives based on mission statement and role of the cultural diversity council. The goals indicated below were derived from the role of the Cultural Diversity Council.

The council brainstormed the following objectives to align with the goals.

1. Improve communication between citizens & town leaders
 - Access how we communicate as a town and hear back from citizens. 2 way,
 - Determine how citizens can get in touch with board/make board available
 - Host citizen forum and dialogue/with community road show.
 - Create repository for information
 - Identify community leaders non-elected/non governmental officials liaisons
 - Evaluate online and digital/online communication

2. Foster a climate of mutual respect within the town of Matthews
 - Take advantage of learning opportunities to inform our direction. Participate. Replicate.
 - Identify groups who feel not respected. Why? Common. Themes.
 - Award certification, pro diversity businesses
 - Issue statements as appropriate to community, country issues that reflect values
 - Opportunity to learn about cultures and celebrate.
 - Include other groups/religions/cultures in how they celebrate throughout the year.

3. Provide input into Town policy & community issues
 - Idea box
 - Be aware of town meetings, read minutes
 - Become educated on community issues and concerns
 - Liason to Human Services Group (Matthews) Attend/participate in human services council (4th Tuesday at noon)

4. Increase the Town's Capacity to e a more culturally competent organization
 - Public information sessions sponsored by town
 - Evaluate diversity training for police, fire, etc.
 - Implicit bias training for staff and community.
 - Engage with thoughtful intention
 - Resource space on website

After ideas were populated. Angela asked members to rank/rate items with each goal. The top ideas are highlighted above. Angela volunteers to populate the goals and objectives on our work plan with target dates.

Nikki introduced visitor Ann Fields student at Winthrop University visiting for her policy class. She thanked group for opportunity to come.

Matthew announced the next meeting is Oct. 24 and adjourned.