

Town of Matthews
CULTURAL DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MINUTES
OCTOBER 23, 2018

Chair N. Rivera-Patrick called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

In addition to the chair, committee members present included: Becky Thompson, Bob Hughes, Jermaine Milledge, Sarah Milledge, Chuck Wilson and Nikki Keith.

The August Meeting minutes were approved.

Natisha provided an overview of the Sept. 24, 2018 report to Town Commissioners. A copy of the report follows the minutes.

Meric Peters was unable to attend the meeting thus Natisha and Chuck provided an update on the Affordable Housing Committee. There is an Affordable Housing Community Forum at the Brace Family YMCA on Feb. 19 at 7pm.

The committee discussed plans for the 2019 Martin Luther King, Jr. Town of Matthews celebration.

In lieu of meeting on the 4th Tuesday in December (December 25), the committee will meet for dinner on Dec. 18 at 6:30 pm.

Bob reminded the group of the Poverty Simulation on Oct 27 at Morning Star Lutheran Church. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm.

The next CDC meeting is Nov. 27, 2018 at 7 pm

Submitted by N. Keith

Town of Matthews
Presentation to County Commissioners
September 24, 2018
7 p.m.
Matthews Town Hall

***Mission:** The role of the Cultural Diversity Committee (CDC) is to foster a climate of mutual respect among the many diverse groups and communities in Matthews; improve communications between these groups and communities and the Town government and leaders; to offer input to Town and community issues; and to encourage discussion of differing viewpoints to promote an understanding in a multicultural environment and increase Matthews' capacity to become a more culturally competent organization and community. The CDC may also become involved in other tasks as requested by the Board of Commissioners or Town staff and additional subcommittees or task forces may be created as needed.*

Current status of the Cultural Diversity Committee

- 8 members – 1 open position (Matthew French resigned as chair)
- Revised our language per the Commissioners request to change our group from Council to Committee as to convey more of an advisory role
- Working on multicultural event suggestions that align with current Town of Matthews events. Do you want us to suggest plans and have the Town of Matthews staff carry out?
- Have suggested to Parks and Rec the option of having an Inclusive Playground – Corey seemed eager to hear our suggestions and look at incorporating inclusive equipment in upcoming park plans
- Working to participate in On the Table Charlotte on October 24th – by incorporating an event hosted at a church here in Matthews that would include participation from 4-5 area churches of different denominations with a goal of hosting around 100 guests. This event incorporates diverse ages, races, and backgrounds to discuss social capital. This year they will be examining the legacy of segregation in Charlotte and how it has impacted, and still impacts our community. The goal is to work to continue to advance action and understanding in our community.

- *Question of advisory versus action? Need to gain clarity around how we can support the Town and the parameters in which we have to work within as a committee. What are the expectations?*

- *Since I joined the CDC we have been reassessing our purpose and I would like to ask the County Commissioners how you view our role going forward? What would you like to see our committee focus on?*