

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee**  
**May 1, 2024**  
**7:00 pm Launchit**

Members Present: five members were present.  
Staff Present: two members of staff were present.  
Regrets: three regrets received  
Guest: one

- 1. Call to Order at 7:04 pm**
- 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**
  - 2.1 Minutes of April 10, 2024, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Meeting**

**MOTION**

**Moved by: Committee Member Seconded by: Committee Member**  
**THAT the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee approve the minutes of**  
**The April 24, 2024, meeting.**  
**CARRIED.**

- 3. Roundtable Discussion**
  - 3.1 Guest Speaker: Justine Dainard, County of Wellington**

Dainard is the Smart Cities Project Manager with the County of Wellington and informed the Committee of a one-year pilot program that the County is running that involves a non-perishable food pantry shelf at the Palmerston, Elora and Arthur Library Branches.

Dainard is looking for community liaisons who would check the dates of the food in the donation box and help to stock the shelves. She explained that she is in talks with the Palmerston Food Bank.

She explained that she is looking to support our efforts with the food pantry in Clifford and would like to coordinate our efforts. She is currently working on policies and offered to share them with our committee once prepared.

She highlighted that Good Food Box Program is being run out of the Harriston Legion and through the Seniors Centre of Excellence where people can get a fruit/vegetable delivery once a month directly from the food terminal, which keeps the cost down at \$22. This program will now be offered to those living in social housing in the area.

Another resource that might be of help is a Community Food Lead at the University of Guelph who has been hired specifically to work in the food access space and keep track

of what is happening and support that might be needed. Dainard offered to connect our committee to this resource as well.

### 3.2 Minto Community Pantry Update

A Committee member reported that the Community Pantry Public Art was selected and a student at Norwell was the successful submission. The student will be supported by an art teacher at the school to ensure the proper materials for outdoor weather are used. A couple of images are included below. The goal is to have the project completed by the end of June with a possible unveiling as part of the Clifford Carnival Celebration on July 13<sup>th</sup>.



### **3.3 Safety Circles**

A member of the Cultural Roundtable Committee attended the meeting to provide an update on the idea of Community Safety Circles. Ultimately it was discovered that services that offer this type of support exist and have trained volunteers and professionals. These include Crime Stoppers, Victim Services, Immigrant Services (language support) and the OPP. Instead of duplicating efforts the Committee felt it would be best to instead promote these services in the form of a magnet that could be handed out at the Fall Fairs, in the newcomer welcome bags and available at schools and libraries to hand out if needed. The Cultural Roundtable member and a member of the DEI Committee offered to bring back a sample design and pricing to the next meeting. The budget allocated to this project is \$250.

It was also suggested that we invite a member of the Minto Safe Communities Committee to attend a future meeting.

### **3.4 Accessibility Presentation Next Steps**

The Committee reviewed the presentation on accessibility/shoppability that was presented at our last meeting. It was decided that we would keep this information and look at the opportunity of partnering with the Chamber to explore grants as well as hire a summer student in 2025 that could lead on small accessibility improvements in our downtown cores.

### **3.5 Truth and Reconciliation Event Next Steps**

The date, time, location, and speaker are set. Committee members provided suggestions on possible indigenous caterers to provide snacks for the event and suggested that we could charge a fee for admission to cover the costs.

### **3.6 Review DEI Applications**

The Committee decided to extend the deadline for DEI applications until May 31, 2024, and was pleased to see that four submissions had been received to date. We will review these applications at our June meeting.

## **4. Adjournment at 8:45 pm**

Next Meeting: June 5, 2024, at 7:00 pm at Launchit.