

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee
January 16, 2025
7:00 pm at Launchit Minto

Attendance: Mayor Dave Turton, Deputy Mayor Jean Anderson, Co-Chair Jokelee Vanderkop, Co-Chair Brittany Reis, Peggy Raftis, Mabel Amapali, Caitlin Hall, Jessica Rowden, Kerry Ammerman, Stefan Von Muhlenen, and Alicia Becker

Staff Present: Belinda Wick-Graham, Director, Economic & Community Development and Gordon Duff, Treasurer

Regrets: Heather Gray, Sarah Bowers-Peter, Therese Boertien, Peyton McBeth and Ahmad Almohammad

- 1. Call to Order at 7:02 pm by Co-Chair Jokelee Vanderkop**
- 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**
 - 2.1 Minutes of December 12, 2024, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Meeting**

MOTION

Moved by: Peggy Raftis Seconded by: Brittany Reis

THAT the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee approve the minutes of the December, 12, 2024, meeting.

CARRIED.

- 3. Roundtable Discussion**
 - 3.1 2025 Action Plan Review and Budget Allocation**

The Committee reviewed the list of events and advocacy items previously developed and participated in an activity to help identify 2025 priorities and how to allocate the \$4,000 budget. The results of this activity are attached as Schedule "A".

3.2 Black Heritage Month Event Update

Duff noted that promotions are underway for the Black Heritage Month event on February 15th from 11:00 am – 12:30 pm at the Harriston Library, featuring Tracy Lee and snacks prepared by May's Café at the Old Post. Duff encouraged members to share with their networks. Tickets are only \$5/pp. Details are attached as Schedule "B".

3.3 Coldest Night of the Year - February 22, 2025

Wick-Graham reminded the Committee of the Coldest Night of the Year taking place in Minto on February 22nd at 4:00 pm starting at the Harriston-Minto Community Centre. Members were encouraged to join the team, sponsor and/or volunteer to help with programs supporting those with hunger and homelessness in North and Centre Wellington.

3.4 Clifford Food Pantry Update

Wick-Graham thanked everyone that supported the call out for donations prior to Christmas. The donations lasted for about a month. Extreme weather conditions are a challenge with the outdoor pantry and limits the items that can be available. We have one dedicated volunteer checking on the pantry 2-3 times per week. The Committee suggested accepting e-transfer donations which will help purchase groceries for the pantry and to highlight the pantry more on social media. Wick-Graham also highlighted that Clifford Takeout was offering produce boxes that donors could sponsor and then they would put the coupon in the pantry for the individual in need to pick up at Clifford Takeout. Wick-Graham will follow up with the County to see how their Library Pantry Project is going.

3.5 Committee Member Updates

Duff noted that he has confirmed Rachel Marks as a guest speaker for April, and Melanie Therrien from the Grove Youth Hubs will attend in May.

Hall noted that she has sat on the Minto Chamber of Commerce Board as a Minto Pride Rep but thought it would be beneficial to change that to be a Minto DEI Rep and asked if anyone would be interested in sitting on the Minto Chamber Board. Co-Chair Brittany Reis offered to sit on the Board.

Hall also highlighted that the Minto Pride flag and banner request has been submitted and paid for. Members of the Committee attended several events in November/December and they are looking forward to hosting Drag Bingo (18+) at the Palmerston Legion on March 29, 2025. Pride in the Park will take place on June 8, 2025. The Committee is also looking at sponsoring a bursary at Norwell D.S.S.

4. Adjournment at 8:34 pm

Next Meeting February 20, 2025