

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TASK FORCE, IN REGULAR MEETING OF MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2024 AT 5:30 PM, MUNICIPAL CENTER I, TOWER ROOM 146, 50 E CIVIC CENTER DRIVE, GILBERT, ARIZONA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Sean Warren; Vice Chair Suzanne Lunt; Members Iya Affo, Chris Curley, Javier Rodriguez, and Heather Watts

MEMBERS ABSENT: Member Alexandra Rodriguez

STAFF PRESENT: Staff Liaison/Volunteer and Community Resources Manager Melanie Dykstra, Council Liaison Kathy Tilque, Assistant Town Manager Dawn Prince, and Deputy Clerk Judy Martinez

GUESTS PRESENT: Kathleen Dowler of Dignity Health and Daniel Gonzales of AZ Republic

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Warren called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Warren led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Staff Liaison Dykstra called roll and declared a quorum present.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The guests and presenters introduced themselves.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Consider approval of the minutes of the March 4, 2024 meeting.

A MOTION was made by Member J. Rodriguez, seconded by Member Affo, to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2024 meeting. *Motion carried 6-0.*

2. Review and discussion of priority area of Kind, Welcoming, and Inclusive Gilbert

Kathleen Dowler of Dignity Health summarized the work previously done by the Task Force which culminated in the review. She noted an instruction sheet and resources were available to help them complete the exercise. She asked the members to work in smaller groups for 20 minutes and then note their recommendations on paper in specific categories. She asked the group to consider if their recommendations were actionable, measurable, achievable, and time specific.

After the exercise, the group discussed the following recommendations:

KIND/WELCOMING GILBERT

Resource (Short Term)

- Increasing awareness of Town resources
- Adding trauma-informed programming

Resource (Mid Term)

- Strive to create safety for diversity and to express opinions
- Having early intervention
- Being aesthetically pleasing to add to being unified and welcoming
- Reimagining the Town's social media to showcase culture and disability resources
- Streamlining community information
- Explore utilizing God's Secret Service organization
- Offer a meet and greet for people new to Gilbert with information on Gilbert resources and services
- Develop a Gilbert citizen education program to highlight how Gilbert works as a municipality, what would help someone be a good resident, and what resources were available

Education (Short Term)

- Trauma-informed education for teachers and youth

Education (Mid Term)

- Continuous diversity, equity, and inclusion (DE&I) training opportunities for the Town Council – promoting civility and respect
- Training opportunities for Town leaders including Town Managers
- Promoting trauma-sensitive schools with teacher education to recognize trauma symptoms and add more engagement with school boards

Education (Long Term)

- Becoming a trauma-sensitive community through assessment, training, and possible certification

Awareness (Short Term)

- More social media presence, promotion, and awareness, adding to awareness and promotion of what the Town offered
- Promoting the Town's YouTube channel and Discover Gilbert campaign

Awareness (Mid Term)

- Leadership transparency
- Re-emphasizing the previous Gilbert Kindness Campaign
- Promoting dialogue through art and culture across varied mediums
- Utilizing storytelling to shape culture

INCLUSIVE GILBERT

Resource (Short Term)

- Adding a Gilbert Human Library Day each month - programs exist that could be modeled and hosted at libraries, museums, festivals, etc.

Resource (Mid Term)

- Continue diversifying special events and programming
- Making free sports and opportunities for youth and kids (more equity)

Education (Mid Term)

- Mitigating fear of different opinions to increase inclusivity
- Showing the diversity of Gilbert through stories, podcasts, articles, videos, etc.

Awareness (Short Term)

- Increasing awareness of community events
- Promoting the Town's mission statement

Awareness (Mid Term)

- Adding an annual Day of Dialogue supported by the Town, businesses, nonprofits, faith communities, etc. to focus on differences, similarities, and sharing stories

A MOTION was made by Member Lunt, seconded by Member Watts, to approve the recommendations as presented to be provided to the Council in Study Session.
Motion carried 6-0.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

Staff Liaison Dykstra

FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE AND TOPICS

Assistant Town Manager Prince stated the Council Subcommittee on Teen Violence recently held their last scheduled meeting and would be providing their recommendations to the Council on April 16, 2024. She said the Subcommittee may want to assign the Teen Violence focus area to the Task Force. She acknowledged the Task Force had completed their initial focus areas and to let Staff Liaison Dykstra know if any of them wished to continue. She said there were currently four vacancies on the Task Force, two alternates and two regular members. She noted if the new focus area was added, members could resign if they did not wish to stay on, then advertising could be done to fill the membership.

Member J. Rodriguez asked if it would be an extension of the terms. Deputy Clerk Martinez explained that Task Force members had no specific term end date; their terms were to end after advising was complete if no other tasks were assigned by the Council. Member Lunt asked about an expected timeframe for Teen Violence topic. Council Liaison Tilque stated the structure, scope, and other information would likely be provided by the Subcommittee on April 16, 2024, but she guessed possibly 4-5 months. Assistant Town Manager Prince noted more information would be provided after the April 16, 2024 Council meeting. The group discussed when the members would need to decide if they would like to stay on for the new topic. Council Liaison Tilque supported the members deciding by the week after the April 16, 2024 Council meeting, so that new positions could be advertised. Staff Liaison Dykstra noted if members did want to resign, they could make it effective on June 1, 2024. Assistant Town Manager Prince summarized the process.

COMMUNICATIONS

Report from Council Liaison on current events.

Since diversity training was mentioned by the Task Force, Council Liaison Tilque noted the Town required civility training for elected officials annually. She said the Council attended the Spring Financial Retreat and she was excited about many projects coming forward. She noted building out parks and connecting trails would add to inclusivity, then said the Council gave direction to move all three phases for the advocacy center forward. She added she was thrilled to be able to get those resources for the community and see them moved up in the priority list.

Report from Staff Liaisons on task force assignments and current events.

Staff Liaison Dykstra stated the Task Force had one more scheduled meeting on May 6, 2024 as a wrap-up and celebration. She said there would be an overarching wrap-up and full report provided to the Town Council at the May 21, 2024 Study Session. She noted their packets included many opportunities and upcoming events, but there was no final homework assigned.

Report from Task Force Members on current events.

None.

ADJOURN

Chair Warren adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

ATTEST:

Sean Warren, Chair

Melanie Dykstra, Staff Liaison