

City of Keene
New Hampshire

College City Commission

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 28, 2016

4:00 PM

KSC Student Alumni Building

Members Present:

Bart Sepata, Co-Chair
Phil Jones, Councilor
Christie Hrynowski
Robin Picard (Left meeting at 5:18 PM)
Marcia Kayser
Kelly Ricaurte
Bettina Chadbourne, Councilor
Chris Cusack
Darryl Masterson
Dottie Morris

Staff Present:

Andy Robinson, KSC Liaison
Tara Kessler, Planner

Members Not Present:

Hannah Elliott
Atticus Rollins
Dean Eaton, Co-Chair
Paula Jessup
Dick Berry

1. Call to Order

Co-Chair Sepata called the meeting to order at 4:07 PM. Roll call was conducted with introductions.

2. Review Minutes- October 26, 2016

Councilor Chadbourne asked for a motion to adopt the minutes of October 26, 2016. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kayser and carried unanimously pending the following amendments:

Councilor Jones stated he reviewed the minutes and needed to clarify two statements listed under Section C, New Business. 1) Councilor Jones stated Pathways for Keene is looking for locations along the bike path to install solar lights. He continued each solar light is \$4,000 and Pathways for Keene is paying for the solar lights. Councilor Jones

stated he was looking for suggestions from the Committee on where to place the solar lights on the bike path. 2) Councilor Jones stated the South Bridge that was recently built will primarily be used by KSC and wanted KSC to be aware there is no lighting on the bridge. He continued if KSC wanted lighting on the South Bridge they would need to contact the Department of Transportation.

Darryl Masterson stated he did not attend the last meeting and needed to be added as not present.

Co-Chair Sepata stated his title should be Co-Chair and not Chair in the minutes in order to be consistent. He continued on page 3 first sentence the word “to” be written twice and should be removed.

3. Discussion on Inclusiveness / Diversity

Ms. Morris began the discussion with an icebreaker exercise and the Committee broke into groups. Following the exercise the Committee was asked to write down their definition of diversity, multicultural and inclusion. The Committee discussed their definitions in a large group format. Ms. Morris noted the importance of diversity and inclusion in building a sustainable and prosperous multicultural community. The Committee continued their discussion on how a community must be committed to multiculturalism, which is linked to a diversity of race, age, class, gender, ethnicity, socio-economic circumstances, sexual orientation, thought, and religious belief. Inclusion, as the Committee discussed is being valued, respected and supported.

Ms. Morris asked the Committee to write down the potential concerns and benefits about being more “diverse” as a community. The Committee began discussing these concerns, which included potential conflicts, loss of identity, fears of safety, loss of religion, fear of the unknown, loss of power, and fear of losing jobs.

The benefits of being more diverse was discussed and the Committee identified the following benefits: creates innovation, more of a resilient community, prevents stagnation, produces culturally vibrant and varied communities, a greater perspective on community and values, improving access to jobs and economic growth.

Ms. Morris asked the Committee to discuss the supports the community has in place in order to be more diverse and what are some of the barriers to being more diverse in the community. The Committee identified the following as supports in the community: Ms. Morris as a local resource, programs available at KSC, spiritual community in Keene, community spirit, student organizations at KSC, local businesses, The Colonial Theatre and the Fall Festival.

The barriers discussed by the Committee included a lack of involvement in the community, a desire to follow tradition, keeping people engaged, timing of meetings and activities, lack of the City and KSC working together, people lacking an understanding of

cultural differences, a bad experience, lack of experience with people who are different, and the mindset of being narrowly focused. Ms. Morris commented there are already ways in which the City and KSC are working towards overcoming these barriers. She referenced the Martin Luther King Jr. /Jonathan Daniels Committee and the CALL program offered through KSC. Ms. Morris discussed how the standing committees within the City have been a powerful way to engage the community and how the goal of the CALL program is to give back to the community.

The discussion concluded with Ms. Morris presenting an example of a campaign used at KSC called We Are KSC/We All Make a Difference. Ms. Morris discussed how the campaign used different scenarios students may face and listed what to do if a student feels emotionally “triggered”, who to contact and where to go for help. She continued, stating that KSC placed posters around the campus to inform students where help is available and also to promote the visibility of diversity efforts.

4. Subcommittee Reports

a. Inclusiveness

Ms. Kayser reported the subcommittee met for an hour and began the meeting with defining diversity. She noted that the Commission members from KSC provided examples of successful programs on campus, including the Title IX office, Counseling Center, Safe Space Training and No Zebras. Ms. Kayser noted the Committee may be possibly be able to hold one or two events a year to educate and promote an inclusive and supportive community. Hosting these events Ms. Kayser noted will help empower and demonstrate respect for families with a diverse range of backgrounds and structures.

Ms. Kayser continued, stating that the group discussed education on diversity, policies and procedures, housing, etc. She noted that the KSC Campus Climate Survey will be administered again in 2017. Ms. Morris reported that the Campus Climate Survey is used to understand where KSC stands on promoting diversity and is structured by asking students a series of the same questions, such as how welcoming KSC is or how safe the students feel. She noted that the students are asked to provide demographic information and this information is used to determine if there are differences between groups of people. Co-Chair Sepata asked if the results of the survey were available. Ms. Morris replied yes. Co-Chair Sepata stated the subcommittee should get the results of the survey and report results to the Committee. Ms. Ricarte stated the results are available on the KSC website under Institutional Research and Assessment. Ms. Ricarte reported the subcommittee discussed using the survey as a baseline and applying the same ideas for the Keene community. Ms. Kayser stated she was interested in finding out about the experiences of the KSC faculty and how they have been treated off campus.

Ms. Kayser reported the subcommittee discussed the possibility of interviewing employees at C&S, NGM, Markem and contacting Antioch University for information on results received from diversity training. Co-Chair Septa asked Ms. Kayser what the next

step was for the subcommittee. Ms. Kayser replied Ms. Morris is coordinating an event in January with the Martin Luther King Jr. /Jonathan Daniels Committee. Ms. Ricaurte reported a discussion of holding a training seminar in the spring for the community.

The subcommittee reported their next meeting will be at 4 PM December 12, 2016 at the KSC Student Center.

b. Neighborhood Revitalization

Co-Chair Sepata stated the subcommittee met once and had a productive meeting. He stated that the next couple of weeks will be used to gather information and conduct research. Ms. Hrynowski reported that the subcommittee will explore towns that have a good relationship with students and housing as well as housing owned by a college. Co-Chair Sepata presented the Committee with case studies of neighborhood revitalization, issue of money, highlighting the different financial resources required to be successful and implementation tools. Co-Chair Sepata stated he would provide the Committee with a list of these case studies.

Co-Chair Sepata reported the subcommittee will meet sometime in December. He continued asking the Committee if there was anything to add. Mr. Masterson stated he was not added to a group and requested to be added to the Neighborhood Revitalization Group.

5. New or Other Business

Ms. Ricaurte reported that Mayor Lane and President Huot met with the editorial board of the Keene Sentinel to discuss the Commission's recently released report. She stated that both did a great job presenting and Ms. Ricaurte along with a few others were present to provide some detail.

6. Next Meeting Dates

Meetings will continue to be scheduled on the fourth Monday of the month at 4:00 PM and alternated between City Hall and KSC Student Alumni Center. The next meeting for the Committee will be held on Monday, January 23, 2017 at 4pm.

8. Adjourn

Co-Chair Sepata adjourned the meeting at 5:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Jennifer Clark, Minute Taker

Reviewed and edited by,
Tara Kessler, Planner