

## ADVISORY BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

TO: Mayor and City Commissioners

FROM: Diversity and Heritage Advisory Board

CHAIR: Shauna Hicks-Lee

VICE CHAIR: Elizabeth Burns

REPORTING TERM: June, 2021 – May, 2022

DATE:

**MISSION STATEMENT:** To promote awareness and to celebrate the rich Heritage and the vast Diversity of the City of Pembroke Pines.

### History

Ordinance 2019-10 was passed and adopted by the City Commission on June 19, 2019, formally establishing the Diversity and Heritage Advisory Board. The Board met for the first time on August 28, 2019, meeting on a monthly basis through February, 2020, at which time all meetings were suspended due to Covid-19. During this hiatus, the Committee chairwoman resigned. Meetings resumed in a virtual format on September 15, 2020, at which time the Committee voted in a new chairwoman.

Although a number of Board members had difficulty navigating the process of virtual attendance, the Board continued to meet in this manner until May 18, 2021 when in-person meetings resumed. Given the uncertainty regarding the efficacy of Covid-19 precautions, a large number of members were hesitant to physically attend meetings, and a quorum was not present for either the August, 2021 or September, 2021 meetings. Shauna Hicks-Lee was voted in as Chair by majority vote at the October 19, 2021 meeting.

### General Business

Since its inception, and despite the many interruptions resulting from Covid-19, the Committee has been gathering information regarding events, activities, and programs that have in the past or do currently take place in the city that relate to Diversity and Heritage, and defining the parameters of the Committee's work. The Board has invited individuals who represent other City boards to attend Diversity and Heritage meetings as guest speakers in order to learn the processes and paths those boards have taken in order to maximize their effectiveness.

The board since its inception, has spoken about a number of projects to recommend to the Commissioners but decided to focus on key projects during this calendar year. There has been much discussion to also look at various multicultural events to recommend.

### Key Actions

August 17, 2021	The Diversity and Heritage Advisory Board was provided with a list of currently scheduled City held activities and events. The Board will review and discuss possible additional recommendations based on Diversity and Heritage criteria.
October 19, 2021	In order to maintain the integrity of the Board, a motion was unanimously passed to have absent members be contacted by phone and emailed, with the appointing Commissioner copied.
November 16, 2021	Per the City Commission's directive as stated at the Commission Meeting of October 20, 2021, the Diversity and Heritage Advisory Board began discussion relating to the naming of the Dream Park building and other ways of recognizing persons who exemplify peace, respect, tolerance, and inclusiveness.
November 16, 2021	Christina Sorensen, Recreation and Cultural Arts Director, and Commissioner Iris Siple attended the meeting as guests in order to discuss the Dream Park and naming options.

### Board Motions

January 18, 2022	The Board made a motion that was passed unanimously that all information disseminated by the City to the public be multilingual, with materials printed in English, Spanish, and Creole. This request was approved by the City Manager on January 19, 2022.
February 15, 2022	The Board passed a motion to recommend to the City Commission that members of the Diversity and Heritage Advisory Board be utilized as speakers in Pembroke Pines schools on the subject of Diversity and Heritage. Liason Jay Schectner invited Dr. Sporillo and Ms. Spradley to give the board an overview of the Education Advisory Board and how they go about recognizing items.
February 15, 2022	The Board passed a motion to request that the Pembroke Pines community newspaper, City Connect, be accessible in English, Spanish, and Creole.

March 15, 2022	The Board passed a motion to report absent members to the City Commission in order to consider replacement.
April 19, 2022	The Board passed a motion to only recommend deceased individuals for the Peace Walk in the Dream Park. The board also passed a motion to find another way to recognize accomplished individuals who are still living possibly on a rotation schedule with a temporary fixture (i.e., portrait, framed newspaper article, etc.)

## DIVERSITY AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE

### ROLL CALL – ATTENDANCE

**MEETING DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>NAME</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Requested Excused</b>
Member <b>Tewari (D1)</b>			
Member <b>Hicks-Lee (D1)</b>			
Member <b>Jacobs-Reed (D1)</b>			
Member <b>Burns (D2)</b>			
Member <b>Azad (D2)</b>			
Member <b>Comfort (D2)</b>			
Member <b>Brewster (D3)</b>			
Member <b>Sicard (D3)</b>			
Member <b>Edwards (D3)</b>			
Member <b>Burgess (D4)</b>			
Member <b>Potter (D4)</b>			
Member <b>Landrian (D4)</b>			
Member <b>Mathew (M)</b>			
Member <b>Surin (M)</b>			
Member <b>(M) Vacant</b>			
Alternate Member <b>(M) Vacant</b>			
Alternate Member <b>(M) Vacant</b>			
Alternate Member <b>(D1) Vacant</b>			
Alternate Member <b>(D1) Vacant</b>			
Alternate Member <b>Acuna (D2)</b>			
Alternate Member <b>Prospect (D2)</b>			
Alternate Member <b>(D3) Vacant</b>			
Alternate Member <b>(D3) Vacant</b>			
Alternate Member <b>(D4) Vacant</b>			
Alternate Member <b>(D4) Vacant</b>			