

**Winnebago County Board  
Diversity Council Meeting**  
County Administration Building  
404 Elm Street, Room 510  
Rockford, IL 61101

Wednesday, June 28, 2023

4:30 PM

**Present:**

Tim Nabors, **Chairperson**  
Maria Fernandez, **Vice Chairperson**  
Valerie Hanserd  
Tommy Meeks  
Dorothy Redd  
Jaime Salgado  
L.C. Wilson

**Others Present:**

Debbie Crozier, HR Director  
Melinda Macias, Purchasing Dept.

**Absent:**

Michele Caldwell

**AGENDA:**

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Minutes – March 29, 2023
- D. Public Comment
- E. Presentation by Thomas Herron – Veteran’s Assistance
- F. Treasurer Report
- G. Discussion Items
- H. Other Items
- I. Adjournment

**Call to Order**

Chairperson Nabors called the meeting to order at 4:32 PM.

**Roll Call**

Chairperson Nabors yes, Jaime Salgado yes, L.C. Wilson yes, Tommy Meeks yes, Maria Fernandez yes, Dorothy Redd yes, Valerie Hanserd yes.

**Minutes – March 29, 2023**

Motion: L.C. Wilson. Second: Valerie Hanserd.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**Public Comment**

Chairperson Nabors omitted reading the Public Comment Section of the Agenda due to no one present to speak.

**Presentation by Thomas Herron – Veteran’s Assistance**

Mr. Herron, Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist, Department of Veterans Affairs, gave a presentation on his work in helping veterans find jobs and offering tax incentives to companies

hiring veterans. Mr. Herron provided handouts to the council members with more information on veterans' assistance. Mr. Herron also continues to work with veterans once they are employed and acts as a liaison between the companies and employed veterans. The representative for the Veterans Homeless Program was unable to attend today's meeting but a pamphlet on assisting the homeless was shared with council members. The program provides assistance to veterans in finding housing. Discussion followed.

### **Treasurer Report**

- Mr. Salgado advised the last check written was for a donation towards the Tommy Meeks Juneteenth celebration.
- There is approximately \$3,500 in the checking account.
- Mr. Salgado will email council members with the report and balance later today.
- Chairperson Nabors called for comments or questions.

### **Discussion Items**

- **Department Diversity** – Chairperson Nabors discussed the EEO report with council members. Ms. Crozier will pull an updated EEO report for council members. Discussion followed. A suggestion was made to revisit hiring policies and practices related to diversity and what actions are taken to recruit prospective employees. The council discussed reviewing policies related to procurement and minority businesses and how to engage those businesses to capitalize on the opportunities. A suggestion was made to create a preapproved list of minority contractors, companies and vendors. Human Resources was asked to provide the EEO report for all departments and this will be looked into.
- **Calendar of Events** – For the next meeting, Chairperson Nabors asked council members to prepare a list of upcoming events to create a Diversity Calendar of Events to support community nonprofit businesses and organizations.
- **Membership** – Chairperson Nabors reported on filling the remaining open council member position. Discussion followed.
- **Diversity Policy** – The Bylaws will be reviewed concerning the inclusion of a Diversity policy.
- **Available Funds for Diversity Council** – Discussion took place on seeking funds for the Diversity Council through ARPA Phase 4 or other sources.
- **Veterans Affairs** – Mr. Herron shared the Department of Veterans Affairs has a Business Advisory Council that meets quarterly with business owners and HR companies that provide information on what they look for in veterans and employees. Mr. Herron invited council members to participate in the Business Advisory Council meetings.

### **Other Items**

- None reported.

### **Adjournment**

Motion: Mr. Wilson. Second: Motion seconded.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Bleile  
Administrative Assistant