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WAYZATA CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
April 20, 2021

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5:30 p.m. Update of City's Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion Initiative and Educational Event

Mayor Mouton called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Pursuant to Minnesota Statute Sec. 13D.015 and because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the City Council Workshop was being held remotely by electronic means using the audio conferencing platform, Zoom. Council Members present: Plechash, Buchanan, Iverson and MacDonald. Also present: City Manager Jeff Dahl, Community Development Director Emily Goellner, and Administrative Services Director, Aurora Yager.

Ms. Yager presented an update to the council on the Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion Work Plan. Progress in the last year include conducting city-wide implicit bias training, updating Police Policy and Procedures, meeting with community groups, and completing an internal employee engagement survey. Promoting related educational programs was designed to be a key part of this initiative. As such, staff has become aware of previously established private property deed restrictions, or racial covenants, within the community that prevented Black, Indigenous, People of Color, Jewish people, and others from owning properties.

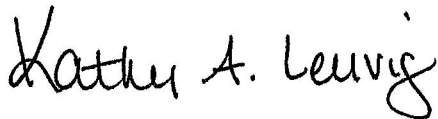
Although racial covenants have been illegal and unenforceable for decades, they remain on the titles of these private properties today. The extent of these practices in Minneapolis and Hennepin County have been made apparent through the work of Mapping Prejudice, the PBS documentary, "The Jim Crow of the North", and have been recently reported in local newspapers. It is known that racial covenants exist in the Highland and Holdridge neighborhoods of Wayzata.

Growing awareness about local racial covenants has sparked interest in putting on an educational event for the community. Several community groups such as Interfaith Outreach, Wayzata Community Education, and many more have come together to plan a virtual event on May 13.

The council was supportive of the initiative. There was interest in learning more about covenants and sharing that information with residents.

The workshop meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathy Leervig
City Clerk