

CITY OF WYOMING
DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION TASK FORCE
March 16, 2021
Wyoming Recreation Center
7:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: David Ambrose, Becky Johnson, Cindy Peebles, April Robles, Christopher Reintz, Lonnie Grayson and Judd Weis

Staff members present: Rachel Leininger—Director of Recreation and Citizen Engagement, Karen Zeilman—Director of Administration

1. Interview: *Terry Huxel, Public Works Director, City of Wyoming*: Mr. Huxel stated public works has 13 guys (all white) and works with the waterworks department because they maintain the water mains. There are 2 crew leaders and a mechanic that takes care of all fleet maintenance. Public works duties include street maintenance, water maintenance, fire hydrant maintenance, leaf collection, mulch delivery, snow removal, opening and closing of the aquatic center, all plantings, all athletic fields, all vehicles, and most contract administration. Mr. Huxel stated that his department tends to operate differently than other public works crews because they are not specialized and will rotate so that they can call in whoever is available to provide the service/repair, and that the most similarly run department would be Indian Hill. MR. Huxel explained that the contracts administered could be street projects, facilities projects/contracts, water main contract (majority street/road project) and that public bidding is required for jobs \$50,000—and most are all over \$50,000. If the work is under \$50,000 we tend to work with a consultant to find a contractor. Is there a vetting process for hiring contractors and are there requirements of EDGE and MBE? Mr. Huxel stated MBE is not tracked by the City but all state bidding requirements are followed. Ms. Leininger explained depending on funding sources there may be MBE information such as Springfield Pike, but that project was not administered by the City but by ODOT, and that the cost was around 7.8 million, with 6 million funded by the state and remainder is the interest free loan. Mr. Huxel says we typically get lots of SCIP money (top 3 in Hamilton County) because we will go 50/50 on the project costs so we get approved for more funds. Mr. Huxel said that over the last 20 years about we've received about 12 million in grants and 4-5 million in interest free loans. He also explained that there is a ten year plan to repair and replace roads and that recommendations are made to City Council and they finalize all capital projects. Ms. Flynn asked are we not tracking MBE and why that wasn't a goal? Mr. Grayson stated we could plan to reach a measurable

goal/objective to work with more MBE/WBE businesses such as partner with local companies to diversify. Mr. Huxel stated the annual spend on maintenance \$1.8 million. Mr. Huxel also explain that his guys typically do not receive any DEI training.

3. Interview: *Mike Lippert, Waterworks Director/Assistant Public Works Director, City of Wyoming*: Mr. Lippert explained that the Waterworks Department has 3 full time employees—one part-time and three meter readers and that they cover a variety of tasks such as water main breaks, mark water lines, meter replacements, maintain the water plant, test water, and that they need to be self-motivated individuals that often work on their own. He explained the department is made up of two people who are African American, and 3 people who are white. He also explained that there is some contract administration such as water main project, but they tend to be very specialized so not many bidders even available. For example, there are only 3 lime companies but quality of the lime can vary between companies. Mr. Lippert stated that about a million is budgeted for operations, and that everything they do is very regulated by the EPA, and all operators are licensed they must be able to obtain the water license within a year of hire. Mr. Lippert also explained Wyoming has its own storm sewer, but uses MSD for sewage. He explained that it has been a high water usage year due to the pandemic and people staying home. Mr. Lippert further explained that Waterworks looks for people with customer service skills as they routinely interact with the public and that he would welcome any additional training. He explained finding training that could done online would be helpful as some staff only work nights.
4. Miscellaneous
5. Adjourn 8:15 pm

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