

PV Diversity Committee Meeting—April 14, 2026

In attendance: Niclo Hitchcock, Dennis Solis, Anitha Patterson, Joe Pachman, Kassie McClure, Ed Stevenson, Erin Manning, Anne Wisdom, Lillian Valdez-Shipps, Kevin Kinsella, Ken Sofer, Ron Nelson chair, Shelby Bartelt and David Magariel, co chairs.

Minutes taken by Ron Nelson

Overview

The PV Diversity Committee meeting on April 14, 2023, began with a roll call and agenda approval.

Key points included a land acknowledgment, updates on the American Jazz Museum collaboration, and plans for a town hall in late May or early June.

The committee discussed the potential for a Prairie Village Pride event on June 6, 2026, with a budget of \$5,000 allocated for 2027. The committee also reviewed the 2027 budget, proposing a \$33,000 allocation, including \$5,000 for Pride and \$3,500 for Hispanic Heritage, and approved the budget for submission to Council for approval.

The meeting concluded with a discussion on forming subcommittees to better manage responsibilities and events. The PV Diversity Committee discussed the formation of subcommittees to better manage their initiatives. The committee considered five main categories: community events, town hall/education, columns/policy, and welcoming/envisioning a different future. The group debated the need for affinity groups and the distinction between town halls and community events. They decided on four subcommittees: community events, town hall, communication, and policy.

The meeting concluded with a unanimous vote to approve these subcommittees, ensuring a structured approach to their work.

Action Items

- Reach out to Carol Katy Blackwood to connect Lillian with additional Indigenous contacts and resources relevant to Prairie Village events and art projects.
- Forward the two Prairie Village Pride proposal presentations (including the written description) to the chair so they can be included in the meeting recap.
- Email the Pride Village / Prairie Village Pride 2026 proposal materials and key supporting documents to the chair for review.
- Research how to obtain a formal Welcoming City designation for Prairie Village by learning from Johnson County's process and engaging with the appropriate city staff.

- [] Provide the committee with the appropriate contact person at Village Fest/Jazz Fest who can answer logistical questions for the American Jazz Museum collaboration.
- [] Explore options for adding a Pride-themed community art project (such as painted signs or flags) that residents can display in their yards during June.
- [] Send Jordan at the American Jazz Museum the outstanding questions from their staff (demographic data practices, tent space, lineup details) so she can begin planning a potential exhibit partnership.
- [] Work with the city to schedule and promote the Advocates for Immigration Rights and Reconciliation town hall, including securing Meadows Brook Clubhouse or a backup venue and setting up the registration system with demographic tracking.
- [] Follow up with the AIR organizers to confirm whether they will participate in the planned immigration town hall.
- [] Draft and send an amended land acknowledgement text to the chair for possible adoption by the committee.
- [] Email the revised Diversity Committee statement to the chair so both versions can be placed on the next agenda for discussion and voting.
- [] Identify and invite building trades workers, homeowners, and other relevant individuals to the proposed May 10 'building' parade float event, using existing networks and outreach channels.
- [] Confirm Meadowbrook Clubhouse availability for the proposed Advocates for Immigration Rights and Reconciliation town hall dates (May 21, May 28, or June 4) and report back to the committee.
- [] Coordinate with the city's social media team to create graphics and post/promote the Advocates for Immigration Rights and Reconciliation town hall event once dates and logistics are finalized.
- [] Add the revised Diversity Committee statement (both current and proposed versions) to the next agenda for discussion and vote.
- [] Contact Tim to confirm scheduling of the Hispanic Heritage / Indigenous Peoples event at Harmon Park on September 19 (3–9 p.m.) and the Pride Village / Prairie Village Pride 2026 event at Harmon Park on June 6 (11 a.m.–11 p.m.).
- [] Consider and potentially implement a process to obtain updated access to the EventRight or similar event management system, possibly by rebuilding a new event record using Rachel's and Charity's prior contact lists.
- [] Develop and circulate a new communication plan (including flyers, digital promotion, and calendar listings) for the Advocates for Immigration Rights and Reconciliation town hall once the final date and time are set.

Outline

Meeting Commencement and Agenda Approval

- Chair Ronald Nelson calls the meeting to order at 4:30 PM on April 14, confirming a quorum.

- Chair Ronald Nelson asks if everyone has the agenda and if there are any additions or deletions.
- Kevin Kinsella mentions an addition about Prairie Village Pride 2026, to be discussed under new business.
- Chair Ronald Nelson asks for a motion to approve the agenda, which is seconded and approved unanimously.
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Land Acknowledgement and Opening Remarks

- Chair Ronald Nelson performs a land acknowledgment, recognizing the ancestral land of the Kickapoo, Osage, and Kansas tribes.
- Chair Ronald Nelson if there are any presentations, but none are planned.
- Chair Ronald Nelson suggests moving to new business and approving the minutes.
- Chair Ronald Nelson asks for a motion to approve the minutes, which is seconded and approved unanimously.

Progress on American Jazz Museum Partnership

- David Magariel provides an update on progress with the American Jazz Museum, mentioning a meeting with American Jazz Museum staff member Jordan.
- Jordan is open to partnering with the committee for an exhibit, focusing on the history of jazz in Kansas City.
- Jordan emphasizes the importance of addressing diversity in the exhibit.
- David Magariel mentions Jordan's interest in knowing demographic information and the lineup for Jazz Fest to tailor the exhibit.

Town Hall Planning and Logistics

- Dennis Solis provides an update on planning a town hall with Trinidad Molina from Advocates for Immigration Rights and Reconciliation (AIRR).
- Three potential dates in late May or early June are discussed: May 21, May 28, and June 4.
- The town hall is expected to last about an hour and a half, with the possibility of needing a translator.
- Discussion on the target audience and the need for demographic information to tailor the event.

Discussion on Land Acknowledgement and Mural Proposals

- Lillian suggests amending the land acknowledgment to refer to the nations as sovereign rather than tribes.
- Lillian proposes a new land acknowledgment text, emphasizing the resilience and endurance of the nations.

- Lillian discusses the importance of culture and diversity, and the need for accurate representation in land acknowledgments.
- Lillian suggests including the seals of the sovereign nations in a proposed mural for Prairie Village.

Pride Village 2026 Planning

- A committee member presents an idea for Prairie Village Pride 2026, including a potential date of June 6 and a focus on inclusivity.
- The event would include raising a pride flag, hosting family-friendly events, and coordinating with local businesses.
- A committee member suggests reaching out to local organizations and businesses for support and participation.
- The idea of creating a private passport for queer and ally businesses in Prairie Village is discussed.
- Motion to approve \$2,000 for 2026. Motion by Shelby, seconded by Kevin, approved unanimously.

Budget Allocation for 2027

- Chair Nelson discusses the proposed budget for 2027, which is \$27,025.25, down from \$28,500.
- The budget includes \$15,000 for Juneteenth, \$2,500 for MLK, \$2,750 for Hispanic Heritage, and \$2,000 for town hall events.
- A committee member suggests reallocating funds to better support events like Hispanic Heritage and Pride.
- The committee agrees to increase the budget to \$33,000, with \$5,000 allocated for Pride and \$3,500 for Hispanic Heritage.

Subcommittee Formation and Responsibilities

- A committee member proposes creating subcommittees for community events, town halls, communication, policy, and broader influence.
- The committee discusses the responsibilities of each subcommittee, including attracting and retaining diverse residents and influencing city policies.
- A committee member suggests creating a fifth subcommittee focused on welcoming and envisioning an inclusive future.
- The committee agrees to form subcommittees and assign responsibilities to better manage their activities and events.

Committee Structure and Roles Discussion

- A committee member emphasizes the importance of introspection and understanding the current state before planning outward acts like events and education.

- A committee member suggests five potential committees: community events, town hall/education, columns/policy, and welcoming/envisioning a different future.
- A committee member proposes considering affinity groups within these committees, such as a queer one in digital.
- A committee member expresses willingness to combine the welcoming idea with policy and influence, highlighting the importance of in-person meetings.

Clarifying Committee Functions and Subcommittees

- A committee member mentions Johnson County's steering committee and the need for specific qualifications to qualify as a city, which are policy-related.
- A committee member suggests that events can be flexible and that different people can bring ideas.
- A committee member discusses the need for consistency, budgeting, and line items in the events committee, emphasizing its role as a governance body.
- A committee member questions whether town halls need to be distinct from community events, suggesting that the work involved is significantly different.

Finalizing Committee Structure and Subcommittees

- A committee member proposes renaming the town hall committee to "town hall education" to better reflect its focus.
- A committee member inquires if the committees are responsible for generating ideas or just finalizing them.
- Chair Nelson suggests that ideas should go through subcommittees before being presented to the larger committee.
- Chair Nelson proposes a motion to form four committees: community events, town hall, communication, and policy.

Voting on Committee Structure

- Chair Nelson asks for a motion to approve the four committees, which is seconded by David Magariel.
- The motion is approved unanimously, with all members in favor.
- Chair Nelson concludes the meeting, thanking everyone for their participation and contributions.