

41 West Street, Cromwell CT 06416

860-632-3448

**Diversity and Inclusion Committee**

***Monthly Meeting Minutes***

**Date:** Monday, May 15, 2023 **Time:** 6:00 PM

**Town Hall Multi-Purpose Room and Via Google Meet**

1. **Call to Order 6:02pm**
2. **Approval of Agenda** Motion to approve by Alice, second by Whitney, passed unanimously
3. **Approval of Previous Meeting’s Minutes** Motion to approve by Erin, second by Alice, passed unanimously
4. **Old Business**
   1. **Finalize survey distribution, including trial to make sure link and QR code work** Community survey was approved at the committee’s special meeting in April. Discussion has now moved to how to get this to the community. A QR Code will be created which will be shared along with the link via email, social media and print. Blank copies will also be available for those who do not have access to email or are not comfortable answering online. The survey link and code will be sent to committee members first before sharing publicly. Committee members will complete the survey within one week and report back to a subcommittee for next steps. A motion to create a subcommittee was made by Erin, second by Clare and passed unanimously. The subcommittee will be responsible for getting the survey out and then for analyzing response data.
   2. **Make final decision regarding ADA Funding**
      1. **Event would need to be held by June 30th and must celebrate the ADA** Committee members brainstormed different event ideas. James Demetriades offered to do a presentation on ADA rights. He will be emailing the committee with his availability. There was confusion as to the type of event we need to hold to secure our funding, so the decision was made to reach out for clarification.
5. **New Business**
   1. **Create a process to draft statements from the committee** With recent events, we have been asked to speak or comment and we do not have any process in place. Motion made by Whitney to create a subcommittee to draft statements when needed. Second by Beth and passed unanimously. It was decided that a shared Google doc will be created for the subcommittee members to access and update as needed.
   2. **Discussion on unity pole** Beth has emailed Matt from LGBTQ+ to get any updates on ideas/progress that committee had regarding a unity pole. DEI will reach out to members and invite them to join us. James mentioned the Middletown Pride Parade in June and asked if anyone from DEI would also like to march. The location of the unity pole will be at the Pierson Park rose garden which will revitalize the garden. Ann recommended a local artist to help with the design, and offered to help with any questions the committee has about presenting the final design idea to the town council. There was discussion about collaborating with the high school and other committees/non-profits in town. Committee members are going to the existing rose garden to measure and sketch designs and will work to get quotes on materials.
6. **Open Forum**
   1. **WINGS project – pick date/time to do at town hall** Our design was approved, and we are asked to paint our wings at the Senior Center. A list of dates was discussed, and the committee decided on June 10th. There was a question about asking community members to join us in our painting and Erin will email our question and pass along the response.
   2. **Book donation from Alice** Alice received a donation of books for our committee but due to time, discussion on how to distribute them will move to next meeting
   3. Clare shared that she received an email for an event at the library “health care hero story time” June 17 10:30am, registration begins on the 17th
   4. **Question on any celebration/event for Juneteenth** The committee had a question about any plans for Juneteenth. No event has been planned at this time.
7. **Adjourn** 7:41pm

Submitted by Erin Omicioli, DEI Secretary