



41 West Street, Cromwell CT 06416
860-632-3448

Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Special Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, February 22, 2021 **Time:** 6:00PM
VIA ZOOM

In attendance: Erin Omicioli, Heather Dillon, Ann Grasso, Whitney Simmons, Alice Henley, Clare Serrantino, Aigné Goldsby, Sue Vanderzee, Bob Vanderzee

Katelynn Puorro, James Demetriades, Steve Fortenbach

Also in attendance: Robert McNaughton, Graham Jerry, Rachel Eleiott, Elsie Newcombe

Student liaisons: Jasmine, Isabella, Jasmine

1. Call to order 6:04 PM

3. Old Business

a. Meeting Dates:

Motion made by Heather to schedule regular meetings for the third Monday of the month at 6:00 PM. Unanimous vote in favor, passed.

b. Mission statement

“Proposed by subcommittee: Our mission is to advance diversity, equity and inclusion in the Cromwell community through education, advocacy, and engagement in a safe space for all.” Motion made by Erin to adopt the Committee mission statement. Second by Clare. Unanimous vote in favor, passed.

c. Subcommittees

Subcommittee volunteer list presented by Katelynn. Discussion about volunteering for multiple committees and whether some committees could be combined or needed more support.

Motion made by Aigné to adopt the mission statement. Second by Heather. Unanimous vote in favor, passed.

d. Chair/co-chair, secretary positions

Aigné and Elsie self-nominated for co-chair positions. Motion made by Ann to approve Aigné and Elsie as co-chairs, second by Sue. Unanimous vote in favor, passed.
Sue and Erin self-nominated for co-secretaries. Motion made by Clare to approve Sue and Erin as co-secretaries, second by Bob. Unanimous vote in favor, passed.

4. New Business

a. Logo

Katelynn presented example logo drafts to the group. Group discussion followed around the impact of symbols, minimal design, design sources (a potential opportunity for students to create logos). The group agreed that they wanted to be very intentional about the design of any logo. Conversation also address the committee's name and whether that was open to change. Steve stated that the group could change their title through a vote. Ann spoke of her experience around logos and graphic design while working in that field and as part of other community groups.
Motion made by Alice to table the conversation until the next meeting to allow members to research and present options. Second by Bob. Unanimous vote in favor, passed.

b. Resources for community on how to handle hate crimes and hostility/aggression, be an upstander

Katelynn shared that an incident in town had been brought to her attention. The incident was also shared on one of the community Facebook pages. Discussion focused on visibility and outreach to the community as a committee and resource. Katelynn will share any Cromwell Youth Services materials created to assist community members should they experience or witness discrimination based harassment/crime.

5. Open forum

Aigné would like the group to utilize strategic planning for future goal setting.

Discussion about the potential utilization of Facebook to reach a larger community audience.

Katelynn spoke of an anti-racism training free for community use and will share it via email.

6. Motion made by Clare to adjourn 7:34 PM, second by Ann. Unanimous vote in favor, meeting adjourned.