



Cromwell Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee
Special meeting
Minutes

Tuesday, August 23, 2021

Zoom

In attendance: Aigne Goldsby, Elsie Newcombe, Kate Puorro, James Demetriades, Ann Grasso, Alice Henley, Erin Omicioli, Sue VanDerzee, Jennifer Beck, Heather Dillon

The special meeting was held to discuss a kick-off event for the Community Conversations. Two dates—Sept. 19 and 26, and two venues—Watrous Park and Pierson Park, were presented.

After discussion, a motion was made by Sue and seconded by Alice to hold the kick-off at Pierson Park on Sunday, Sept. 26 at any time in the afternoon after 1pm that the pavilion is available. All in favor.

This will be an opportunity to learn more about the Community Conversations, which will be conducted for four consecutive weeks in October. It will also be a chance to sign up for one of the three groups scheduled. Sign-ups for the Community Conversations will be on-line and on paper at the kick-off or (at Town Hall somewhere?... not sure about this.)

Elsie raised concerns about the balance of numbers and diversity in groups, as well as whether walk-ins should be allowed. Walk-ins precipitated much discussion with the end being that Aigne suggested that the possibility of being a walk-in to a group should not be advertised but that people should not be turned away unless the groups become too large. It seemed that most were in favor of being as open as possible in view of our mission.

Elsie presented sample flyers, which everyone agreed looked very good. There will be some last-minute read-overs of the documents before they are finalized.

Continuing social media presence was suggested with the suggestion that maybe a new blurb could be put out every few days on what community conversations had accomplished in other places.

Discussion of who would do outreach to various groups was the next topic. Kate will take care of the school district, Youth Advisory Board, and help Sue with senior and social services, as well as being available to speak to newspapers.

Aigne will do Board of Education, Cromwell Hills and perhaps other condo/apartment developments, the library and help with the Farmers' Market.

Alice will reach out to Cromwell clergy, with help from Elsie, and Rook.

Elsie will help Alice with clergy, Aigne with Town Council and Farmers' Market, Chamber of Commerce, newspapers and LGBTQ organizations.

Ann will be very busy with Covenant Village, Cromwell Listens podcast, Fire and Water District, CCD, CCA, CCC and CCWC.

Erin will help with Farmers' Market coverage.

Sue will do Senior and Social Services with Kate's help.

Next item on the agenda was introducing the pre and post surveys for conversation participants. The ones developed by Erin and Elsie were deemed a great starting point with several suggestions made to simplify and shorten. One suggestion was that the pre-survey be part of registration process.

No comments during open forum/for the good of the organization.

Meeting adjourned 7:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Sue VanDerzee