



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

Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, September 20, 2021 **Time:** 6:00 PM
Via Zoom

In Attendance: Aigne Goldsby, Erin Omicioli, Clare Serrantino, Bob McNaughton, Whitney Simmons, Elsie Newcombe, Ann Grasso, Sue VanDerzee, Jennifer Beck

Town Council/Town of Cromwell Liaisons: Steve Fortenbach, Kate Puorro, James Demitriades

Student Liaison: Jazzy Hampton

- 1. Call to Order** 6:03PM by Aigne
- 2. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes** Motion by Sue, Second by Erin, passed unanimously
- 3. Old Business**
 - a.** Subcommittees updates- Working on scheduling training with Gloria, leaning towards October 9th. Those who are interested in being trained but have not responded should contact Kate ASAP.
 - b.** Unity Pole update- There was inconclusive discussion about a Unity Pole in conjunction with the LGBTQ+ committee.
 - i.** LGBTQ+ subcommittee
 - c.** Facilitators/ facilitator training-Elsie provided an update about Everyday Democracy, they can provide 3 facilitators. Elsie would like to schedule meeting with them to get them up to speed on our guide and conversations.

Stipend for facilitators- Elsie drafted a letter for the Town Council, letter sent from Elsie to James

James-letter looks good, Town Council can approve then BoF allocates, next Town Council meeting is October 13th and the request is for \$200 per ED facilitator

- d. Outreach updated- Aigne and Elsie went to the last farmer's market in August.

Alice and Elsie met with clergy who said they would spread the word about the Community Conversations. Elsie hasn't heard from the Chamber of Commerce.

Elsie-success in Fox Glenn laundry rooms, tried Manor but laundry rooms locked, clergy group with Alice was successful, will try Chamber again

Whitney put the conversation info on the DEI Facebook page, but she does not have access to our Instagram account yet.

Jazzy said that the Unity Club at the high school has talked about it.

Ann said that all the residents in Covenant Living will have received a flyer, and the Children's Coalition and Cromwell Creative District (CCD) and Cromwell Arts Alliance are also sending it out. She added that CCWC has also received the information.

Clare reported that she hopes it will go out in the schools this week.

Erin will share on the Cromwell Uncensored Facebook page as that gets lots of traffic.

Kate shared that she has flyers in her office for pick-up if anyone can post one or a few, and she would also be willing to drop off flyers at anyone's house who needs them.

Members were encouraged to post on their own Facebook/Instagram pages.

4. New Business

- a. Kick-off event duties-set up/tear down, Kate said there shouldn't be too much set up and break down, Aigne added that we should be prepared to start the program by about 1:20. The program will consist of an introduction of the committee, an explanation of Community Conversations, and then a sample exercise, hopefully facilitated by Gloria.

Ann and Erin will set up and "man" a registration table with registration info about the conversations, name tags and a sign-in sheet.

Aigne and Elsie will do the introduction, and Gloria will send instructions for storytelling exercise.

Jennifer can bring cookies, discussion centered on COVID rules for snacks, but definitely Kate will supply small water bottles. Kate will check with recreation about sound equipment.

Intro to Committee

Intro to Community Conversations

Dialogue Guide Review

Exercise

Info on Conversations

- b. Request for funds for facilitators from Everyday Democracy-already discussed

- c. Trick or trunk: The next item on the agenda was discussion on whether the DEI Committee would have a trunk at the upcoming PTO Trick and Trunk event on Oct. 23 outside at the high school. After some discussion of what the event entailed, Erin made a motion to sponsor a trunk, seconded by Sue and approved with no opposition. Steve explained that the event generally starts with a 3 pm set-up, followed by an hour of sensory friendly trunking, with 5-7 for any resident family that wants to come and participate. Ann volunteered to look at getting inexpensive gift items from Oriental Trading. Erin volunteered to submit our application for a spot to the PTO ASAP.

5. Open Forum/For the Good of the Organization

None

6. Adjourn 7:02 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Sue VanDerzee