



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

Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Special Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 **Time:** 5:00PM
VIA ZOOM

In Attendance: Elsie Newcombe, Jennifer Beck, Ann Grasso, Clare Serrantino, Whitney Simmons, Carol Perry, Alice Henley

Town Liaison: Kate Puorro

Town Council Liaisons: James Demetriades

Also in attendance: Chief Denise Lamontagne (Cromwell Police Department)

1. Call to Order

5:01 PM

2. Old Business

- a. George Floyd Remembrance Event

Elsie reminded the group to submit requests for t-shirts by Friday, 5/14/2021. James shared a document about planning progress for the event and touched on tasks that still need to be done. The document included a general overview of the event in addition to COVID mitigation strategies. Two items still left “to-do” were the creation of a Facebook page and event page, and seeking a volunteer to live stream the event (Jennifer volunteered).

James introduced members to Chief Lamontagne. Chief Lamontagne provided information and answered questions regarding safety concerns around the event. Chief Lamontagne pointed out that Pierson Park Football field is next to the Police Department. Chief Lamontagne shared about last year’s student initiated and led march of solidarity and what the safety concerns were for that event (road and traffic safety) and that very few agitators showed up and were easily de-escalated when participants shared the goal and message of the event.

Members shared their intentions and expectations for this event and experiences participating in the march last year.

James shared that Representatives Matt Lesser and Christie Carpino had been invited, as well as Cromwell Mayor Enzo Faienza. Both Senator Lesser and Mayor Faienza have confirmed their attendance.

Press releases were also sent to the Middletown Press and local Cromwell papers.

The group then ironed out the order of events for the program (being designed by Carol) and traded ideas for what would be the best way to handle each portion. The program will list opening remarks by the co-chairs and an introduction to the committee in addition to purpose for the event; an interfaith prayer by Reverend Paul Krampitz, sharing information about George Floyd's life, potentially a song, a moment of silence, and open mic/reflection for attendees. The group further discussed the layout of the program and printing logistics.

Whitney stated that she would see if she could get masks made with the Committee's logo on them in time for the event.

Alice asked if students would be interested in having a formal time in the program or whether they might speak during the open mic. Kate volunteered to reach out to Jazzy Hampton about those options. Clare will also email Dr. MacLean of Cromwell Public Schools about the event.

At James' suggestion, Elsie will attend the 5/12/2021 Town Council Meeting to share about the event. She will also see if Aigne is available to attend.

Elsie and Clare reminded the group about t-shirt orders (so far there have been 11 requests). The group agreed that a good pickup date would be 5/20/2021 and that it'd be best for members to pick up shirts directly from the printer (Found Apparel in Cromwell). Whitney stated that if someone had a time conflict, she could volunteer to pick up their shirt for them.

3. Adjourn

5:58 PM

Submitted Respectfully,
Katelynn Puorro