



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

## **CROMWELL DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE**

### **Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Monday, June 21, 2021 6:30pm via ZOOM

**In Attendance:** Bob McNaughton, Jennifer Beck, Clare Serrantino, Aigné Goldsby, Alice Henley, Carol Perry, Ann Grasso, Whitney Simmons, Elsie Newcombe, Erin Omicioli

**Town Liaison:** Kate Puorro

**Call to order 6:04pm**

#### **Approval of previous minutes**

5/17 meeting - Jennifer motion, Alice second. Accepted unanimously

6/2 special meeting - Clare motion, Jennifer second. Accepted unanimously

#### **Old Business**

##### **Subcommittee updates (Kate)**

Dialogue guide has been finalized, working on getting to 4 sessions. The guide is a custom guide from Gloria. Kate to email the subcommittee members to set another meeting for early July. The target date for these dialogues is sometime in the fall, maybe October, and to have a kick-off/launch event for the community. The overall goal is to have 3 groups of 10 participants who will commit to all 4 sessions. Ideas for the event include holding at town hall with light refreshments close to when the dialogues will start (hold kick-off in Sept if dialogues to be in October). There was discussion on how to reach the community - work with local clergy, businesses, agencies, etc. and how often to communicate and what methods will be most effective. Ideas include using our social media channels and the email list from the George Floyd memorial and to have this brought up by our liaisons at future town meetings to get this into the minutes.

##### **Update on PRIDE crosswalk (Aigné and Kate)**

Committee members wanted to know the status of the PRIDE crosswalk. It was denied, though no formal motion to consider was made. Reasons to deny included questions of liability and state codes/laws. There was also some push back on allowing one could mean allowing others but the town manager was open to meeting and go over alternative ideas from town groups and/or community members. Other towns/cities with a similar crosswalk were used as examples of why this should be a part of Cromwell. There was discussion to attend the town meeting if this were to come before the council again and to partner with other committees to

support each other. There was also concern that this was not shared town-wide which could have affected support.

### **New Business**

#### **ADA Grant (Elsie)**

We received the grant to hold an ADA basketball event partnering with the Ryan Martin Foundation. The Foundation will provide resources needed (ie materials). We need to set a date to coordinate with the Foundation. Erin, Aigné, Elsie, Carol and Alice volunteered to create a working group to help with the event and planning. Discussion included where to hold the event and to have this inside or outside (COVID concerns). Kate offered to ask the recreation director for ideas and to help reserve any spaces if needed. Elsie will reach out to the Ryan Martin Foundation for available dates.

Motion to accept grant funds, set up a working group and hold the event either 8/7 indoors or 9/25 outdoors by Erin, Bob second. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Community Dialogue Kick-Off Event**

Continuing subcommittee update from old business, ideas for this event focused on timing and keeping the community informed. Discussion included weekday or weekend, creating a list of ideas to keep social media active/engaged, and to hold the kick-off on Sept 20th which is a regular committee meeting date. If the event is on the 20th, there was an idea to move the regular committee meeting to another day as a special meeting.

Motion to hold Community Dialogue Kick-Off even on Sept 20 by Ann, Clare second. Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion to Adjourn** 7:30 pm by Bob. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erin Omiciolo