



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

Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, November 15, 2021 **Time:** 6:00 PM
Via Zoom

Attendance: Erin Omicioli, Bob McNaughton, Aigne Goldsby, Elsie Newcombe, Jennifer Beck, Ann Grasso, Clare Serrantino, Alice Henley, Kate Puorro, Jazzy Hamilton, Jessica Lamb, Marc Kagan

1. Call to Order: 6:04 PM

2. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from previous meeting by Clare, second by Jennifer. Passed unanimously.

Motion to amend agenda to include presentation/school equity update from Jessica Lamb by Erin, second by Alice. Passed unanimously.

We have two community members joining – Marc Kagan and Jessica Lamb. Committee members quickly introduced themselves and we welcomed Marc and Jessica to the meeting.

3. Old Business

a. LGBTQ+ Committee Update

the committee now has new co-chairs who are working to get the committee up and running. The plan is to have them act on their own for now and eventually work together moving forward with either a liaison or DEI subcommittee.

b. Facilitators/ facilitator training

Coordinate with Gloria (Clare will be helping when Kate is on maternity leave). There are at least 5 members who have interest in being a facilitator and going through the

training. The idea is to hold the training after the holidays, preferably in late January or early February. Elsie will create a Google Form to send to those interested in order to come up with a Saturday that works for everyone and to create an alternate day in case of weather.

c. Cromwell Considers Community Conversations

Alice updated the committee on her conversation with Pastor Doug who has interest in hosting one of the groups for the community conversations after the holidays. We learned that St John Church is unable to host but Hilltop might be interested. Committee members will reach out to locations that had originally offered to host and will confirm availability. There was also mention of holding a smaller version of the Kick Off event for Rook. They have interest in what the committee and the conversations are about. Discussion also included holding more Kick Off-style events within the community. Gloria has offered to help with that and Kate will forward that information to Aigne and Elsie.

4. Cromwell Public Schools equity work update

Jessica shared a small presentation about a pilot program with the newly formed Unity Club in the middle school. They are working on the logistics of a “Care Closet” to help fellow student meet their basic needs. The closet will contain things such as food, toiletries and clothing. There was a question about what is needed and right now, the club is looking at how much space is available to them. Discussion also included partnering with Cromwell Youth Services and the town food pantry. As each school is assessing their needs, partnering will be a future plan.

5. New Business

a. Resignations / New Appointments

Resignations/New Appointments – Aigne has been trying to contact absent committee members. Kate offered to help.

b. Plan for 2022

Reminder that we need to come up with our strategic plan for 2022. This includes the upcoming Community Conversations, and the postponed ADA Basketball event. Discussion included creating a survey to be sent to town residents in order to help with 2022 plans. A subcommittee was created, with Erin, Alice, Aigne, Clare and possibly Elsie working on the survey and distribution. Ideas included posting to social media, sending the survey out via the school system, creating a QR code, and putting an ad in the Rare Reminder and other papers. We also have help from our high school members to get the survey out in CHS.

6. Open Forum/For the Good of the Organization

a. Upcoming Meeting – will need to vote on co-chairs and other positions for 2022

b. Committee members agree that Trick or Trunk was a success. Those that participated enjoyed the evening. Thank you all around for everyone’s hard work.

- c. We invited Marc Kagan to offer any comments/questions/concerns and we thank him for participating. We hope to see him at future meetings.

7. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn 7:22pm by Bob McNaughton. Passed unanimously.