

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee
Town of Chelmsford, MA
June 8, 2021

Members in attendance (remote via Microsoft Teams):

Phil Hicks, Chair

Latosha Dixon, Co-Chair

Susan Mackinnon, Clerk

Lauren Cochran, Rachel Donovan, Tricia Dzuris, Cherrice Lattimore, Joseph Mason, Brian Petro-Roy

Absent: C. Connor-Reim J. Dave, M. Feeney

Call to Order 7:05 pm.

This meeting is being recorded.

Approval of minutes of May 25, 2021, meeting

Motion to approve by T. Dzuris. B. Petro-Roy seconded. Motion approved.

Select Board Update

The Select Board voted to make the committee a standing committee. It will be made up of nine members with 3-year staggered terms. Cochran, Connor-Reim, Dixon – 1-year term. Donovan, Dzuris, Lattimore – 2-year term. Mackinnon, Mason, Petro-Roy – 3-year term. As a member's term expires they may be re-appointed for another 3 years. Pat Wojtas will be the liaison to the Committee.

Phil Hicks is not able to make the commitment to remain as a permanent member but would like to volunteer to help when he can. He appreciates everyone's commitment to the work. The Select Board commended the work of this committee at last night's SB meeting.

The Select Board renamed the committee. The new name is Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

Working Group Updates

Juneteenth – B. Petro-Roy: Reverend Dr. Gary Palmer of the New Hope Baptist Church, and Joseph DeVoe, President of the NAACP Merrimack Valley Branch, as speakers. Cecelia Lunde, Aleah Floyd, New Hope Praise team will perform. Boston Globe will run a story on the event. Lori Trahan and our 4 state reps have been invited. L. Dixon will be the emcee. B. Petro-Roy asked if there is a student who could create a graphic image to go on the posters. Text about Juneteenth with graphics will be on one 24x36 poster. DEIC information with QR code to Anti-Racism Pledge will be on another.

J. Mason reported that some members of the South Shore Monarchs (The Basketball League) will attend.

Volunteers needed! Mackinnon will reach out again to CARES. Cochran will reach out to CHS clubs.

We have two food vendors. Lattimore suggests adding an ice cream truck. BOH can help recommend a reputable truck. All other necessary plans are in place.

Kathleen Canavan will make arrangements with school dude to obtain 10 tables and 40 chairs.

Expenses for the event will be \$300 for DJ, \$25 for lanyards, \$250 for honoraria, \$366 for mini Juneteenth flags.

International Day of Peace – L. Cochran will get plans going as soon as Juneteenth event is underway. Dzuris noted that we will need to raise funds for this and other endeavors, such as the diversity film viewing.

Library film series – P. Hicks reported that streaming technology can be used to share movies with community. Facilitators will monitor discussion after the movies, someone from CPL and someone from DEIC. BETA test will probably begin at the end of the summer.

Education -- A date to meet with the Assistant Superintendent has not yet been scheduled. Mackinnon will reach out to request Dr. Hirsch's attendance at a future meeting.

L. Cochran reported on upcoming PD on diversity: IDEAS training.

Diversity Training Update

Training was recommended to the SB. Some interest was shown. T. Dzuris suggests sending members the link and asking individuals to sign up on their own and ask DEIC to reimburse them.

T. Dzuris reported on her contact with point made learning. \$5000 for film, plus \$1000 for facilitator. She suggests starting with the Library film series. If there is interest, we can pursue the viewing at the PAC. It would likely require securing a grant to cover the cost. Perhaps fundraising for this specific event would be fruitful. Donovan will help with grant.

Next meeting

There was discussion around changing day of the week and frequency of future meetings. We also need to secure a physical location for future meetings. The MA State of Emergency is ending June 15 and all meetings that are subject to open meeting laws must be held in person.

Mackinnon, Dzuris and Lattimore are available (every other) Wednesday. Discussion will continue at next meeting.

June 22, 2021, at 7 p.m. Location to be announced, published in the agenda.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by T. Dzuris . Seconded by B. Petro-Roy. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Susan Mackinnon, Clerk,
Diversity, Racial Equity, and Inclusion Committee