

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee
Town of Chelmsford, MA
June 22, 2021

Members in attendance :

Phil Hicks, Chair

Latosha Dixon, Co-Chair

Susan Mackinnon, Clerk

Lauren Cochran, Rachel Donovan, Cherrice Lattimore, Joseph Mason, Carly Connor Reim, Brian Petro-Roy

Absent: T. Dzuris

Also attending: Pat Wojtas, Select Board

Call to Order 7:00 pm.

Approval of minutes of June 8, 2021, meeting

Motion to approve by L. Dixon. C. Reim seconded. Motion approved.

Juneteenth event

Event was fantastic. Hicks said Petro-Roy should be very proud. Other communities did not do anything like this. It was an opportunity for Chelmsford to take the lead. Getting the work done and the approvals and coordination done in such a short amount of time was commendable.

L. Dixon reported that wickedlocal.com did a story on the event.

<https://www.wickedlocal.com/story/eagle-independent/2021/06/22/chelmsford-celebrates-juneteenth/7717546002/>

We received \$96 in donations the day of the Juneteenth event.

Donovan asked about lessons learned. Petro-Roy reported that having the event Gmail account was invaluable. He will share the site plan he developed for future events.

Food venue permits need lead time- more than 30 days needed ideally. Custom products need to be ordered far enough in advance, a month at a minimum. FYI- Facilities dept. has concrete blocks that can secure canopies. Space things where people will stand – in shady areas! Need a good way to coordinate volunteers- a place? a coordinator? Advertising – brochure? Business card? At businesses? Need a better PA system. Possibly CTM could help with that. Lt. Spence of the CPD was extremely helpful with everything.

Thank you to Susan Gates CCA for her assistance.

Working Group Updates

International Day of Peace and Justice – Sept 25, 1-5 PM

Dance, song, poetry, speakers, crafts, games

L. Cochran, C. Lattimore, L. Dixon T. Dzuris, S. Mackinnon

Library film series – P. Hicks and C. Connor Reim are working with the Chelmsford Library to use the Kanopy platform to share virtual watch parties. June 30 will be the first date in the Watch it Wednesdays with the DEIC series. Registration is open on the CPL website.

Please send any recommendations for future films to Carly Connor Reim.
Moderators will frame questions similar to those posed for a book study.
An evening with Nate Marshall, Monday, June 28, will be moderated by Latosha Dixon.

Indigenous People's Day – C. Reim will be scheduling a meeting with SB soon.

Support for Transgender Community

S. Mackinnon read a quote from *Boston Globe, Fast Forward* by Teresa Hanafin “When Las Vegas Raiders defensive lineman Carl Nassib announced yesterday that he is gay -- the first active NFL player to ever do so -- he did so much more than just lift a weight off his own shoulders. He saved lives.

It's bad enough that suicide is the second leading cause of death among young people ages 10 to 24. LGBTQ youth, tortured by their peers and shunned or humiliated by much of society, are almost five times as likely to have attempted suicide compared to heterosexual youth.

But you know what? As Nassib pointed out, "All it takes is one accepting adult to decrease the risk of an LGBTQ kid attempting suicide by 40%. Whether you're a friend, a parent, a coach, or a teammate -- you can be that person."

We" can be that ally.

Christy Whittlesey, our website, The Trevor Project (Carl Nassib) -- all are excellent resources.

Meeting schedule

B. Petro-Roy made a motion to change future meetings to Wednesdays. C. Reim seconded.
Motion carried.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, July 14 at 7 pm.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by L. Dixon. Seconded by R. Donovan. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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