

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee
Town of Chelmsford, MA
September 14, 2022

Members in attendance :

Carly Reim, chair. Lorena Betts, co-chair

Lauren Cochran, Tricia Dzuris, Cherrice Lattimore, Susan Mackinnon

Absent: Linda Morel, clerk, Rachel Donovan, Milo Ransdell

Also present: Bill Campbell

Frances Killam and Dee Halzack from the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church

Call to Order 7:00pm.

Approval of minutes of August 30, meeting

T. Dzuris made a motion to approve the 8-30-22 minutes with some administrative edits. C. Reim seconded. Motion carried.

Land Acknowledgement statement

Public Input

Frances Killan and Dee Halzack appealed for help from the DEIC in regard to the UU Church Welcoming Congregation Committee and the Transgender Day of Remembrance. Each year the church holds a vigil where the names of those killed by transphobic violence are read aloud and a candle is lit for each victim. This year it will be held on Saturday, November 19. It has come to the attention of the committee that some people who might want to attend the TDOR vigil do not want to attend in a place of worship. Ms. Killan asked for help from the DEIC to find a new venue for 2023.

Much discussion ensued, primarily around finding a new venue now, for the 2022 vigil. Suggestions to look into the Chelmsford Center of the Arts or the Town Community Center in North Chelmsford were made, with referrals to contact persons. DEIC also promised to help promote the vigil through our webpage and social media platforms.

Committee Business

Finance Update

Previous balance was \$4003.05

Donations from sponsors for Day of Peace were deposited. Expenses for Day of Peace will include the new banner (hung at Unitarian Church), raffle permit, tablecloths, craft supplies.

Current balance = \$5298.05

\$1070 of that is earmarked for the UNICEF Protect the Children of Ukraine fund.

Working Group Updates

Education – Restorative Practices AND Community Engagement

Carly Conor Reim and Lorena Betts proposed combining the two working groups as they have similar missions. Posting information on the website and social media is meant to educate people about social issues, values, and news around the world. This can go hand in hand with the work we wish to do with school groups. All DEIC members present agreed.

Watch It Wednesday

Schedule for the last Wednesday of the month, 6:30 pm, for the rest of the year.

September - The Straight Story

October - The Farewell

November - Wonder

December - Nothing Like The Holidays

Day of Peace

All arrangements are ready to go: Sound system coming, to be manned by high school student.

Programs printed. Volunteers are coming beginning at 9:00, including members of the GIVE club and INTERACT from the high school. There are eight bridges ready to be raffled. The DPW will transport the bridges and stage to the common on Thursday at 2:10 pm.

There will be a donation board with pictures of bridges and the names of prominent donors. The bridge raffle will be pulled at 3:30.

Meeting schedule

Next Meeting will be on Tuesday, September 27, 2022, at 7 pm

Adjournment

Mackinnon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dzuris seconded. Meeting adjourned 8:39 pm.

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