

First Selectman's Diversity Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 15, 12:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://greenwichct.zoom.us/j/84470529609?pwd=VitLdGt5bkZEdFVIMFZXV2p0eWttZz09>

In Attendance:

Erin Crosby, Danielle Jean-Guillaume Sittol, Darian Jones, Dawn Kaam, Marek Zabriskie, Demetria Nelson, Bobby Walker, Jr., Ted Pardoe, David Rabin, Karen Richard, Marek Zabriskie

Call to Order

Bobby Walker, Jr. 12:03pm

1. Approval of Minutes from January 2022

Motion: Gaby Rattner, Seconded: Gary Charles

2. Update on name change - Greenwich commUNITY Voices

- Concern that new name is not formally connected with the First Selectman's office
 - What authority will the group have without this association?
 - Bobby will follow up with the First Selectman
- Should we capitalize the "c" in "community": *Greenwich CommUNITY Voices*?

3. Next steps for committee - membership guidelines

- Community members have expressed interest in joining this group
 - Many hope to engage in broader conversations focused on diversity, social justice, and to engage with representatives of diverse entities in the community
 - New members should represent organizations whose missions align with that of this committee
 - How do we address the interest of those whose mission is not in alignment?
- There are no formal guidelines related to membership on the committee
 - Historically represented by non-profits and faith-based organizations
 - Ted and Bobby will review the membership processes of other First Selectman committees to determine best practices
 - Karen to connect with Pamela Toper, one of the founders of the committee, to discuss initial criteria for committee membership
 - Consider the practices of similar group in other communities
- This committee should be represented by diverse Town groups and organizations
 - Also consider diverse geographic, socioeconomic, and age representation
 - This might lead to growth of the committee which could require the introduction of norms to ensure productive management and engagement
 - What are our expectations of members of the committee?
 - What are our goals?
 - How do members contribute?
 - How do members benefit?
- Request guidance from the Town Attorney, Aamina Ahmad, who has expertise with boards and commissions that function under Town

4. Socioeconomic Panel Update

- Will take place on Wednesday, May 18, at 7pm, location TBD
 - Still determining if this will be a live, virtual, or hybrid event
 - Fred Camilo might share his story about growing up in Greenwich and his life experiences
 - Steve Meskers, David Rabin, and Demetria will be on the panel

- Will ensure that there is balance on the panel, panelists will offer their perspective from an organizational standpoint and acknowledge the community members they represent
- Will discuss how socioeconomic diversity makes a community stronger
- Will discuss Town services
- Client voices might be shared in letters
 - Can also share quotes/qualitative data from United Way
 - Other suggestions welcome

5. Committee Member Updates and Announcements

Youth Services

- Greenwich Student Diversity Leadership Conference was held on Saturday, 02/05/2022
 - Youth explored the idea of authentic allyship
 - Keynote speaker, Antonia Soares Thompson, Esq., Director of Racial Justice Initiatives in Middlesex County Massachusetts discussed ways to be an ally
 - Danielle will start developing partnerships with diversity and inclusion groups in schools and the ADL in preparation for next year's conference
 - Would like to engage a broad range of youth to help develop the program

YWCA Greenwich

- YWCA has approved their legislative agenda, a document that guides work (CT General Assembly, programming, and op eds written, etc.)
- For Black History Month relaunched 21-day Racial Equity and Social Justice Challenge

6. Next Meeting Tuesday, March 8, 2022

7. Adjournment: 12:52pm