First Selectman's Diversity Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 15, 12:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting: https://greenwichct.zoom.us/j/84470529609?pwd=VitLdGt5bkZEdFV1MFZXV2p0eWttZz09

In Attendance:

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
     o What authority will the group have without this association?
     o 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
     o Many hope to engage in broader conversations focused on diversity, social justice, and to engage with representatives of diverse entities in the community
     o 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
     o Historically represented by non-profits and faith-based organizations
     o Ted and Bobby will review the membership processes of other First Selectman committees to determine best practices
     o Karen to connect with Pamela Toper, one of the founders of the committee, to discuss initial criteria for committee membership
     o Consider the practices of similar group in other communities
   • This committee should be represented by diverse Town groups and organizations
     o 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
     o 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
     o Still determining if this will be a live, virtual, or hybrid event
     o Fred Camilo might share his story about growing up in Greenwich and his life experiences
     o 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/qualitive 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