

First Selectman's Diversity Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 12, 2022, 12:00 pm

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

In Attendance:

Garfield Charles, Erin Crosby, Danielle Jean-Guillaume Sittol, Darian Jones, Dawn Kaam, Demetria Nelson, Bobby Walker, Jr., Ted Pardoe, Gaby Rattner

Call to Order

Bobby Walker, Jr. 12:05pm

1. Approval of Minutes from March 2022

Motion: Ted Pardoe, Seconded: Gaby Ratner

2. Panel Update – need everyone’s support

- *Exploring the Wealth Divide in Greenwich*
- Ted Pardoe will moderate
- Panel may include Selectwoman Lauren Rabin due to schedule conflict for First Selectman
 - Need to confirm First Selectman’s substitute
 - First Selectman will join the event later
- Other panelists: Demetria Nelson, a representative from Fairfield University’s Center for Social Impact, David Rabin, who will share his *Making Tough Choices* presentation, and Representative Meskers
- Program flyer will be created and shared with the community
- Program date: Wednesday, May 25, 7pm - 8:30pm, Cone Room
- A Greenwich Academy class, with their teacher, might be in attendance

3. Direction of Committee for Future Meetings

- Discussion about holding meetings in-person, virtually, or in a hybrid format
 - Virtual meetings are convenient
 - In-person meetings are more powerful
 - Concern about increasing virus transmission rates
 - Might hold an in-person meeting in June
 - Consider outdoor meetings
- Where is the committee going?
 - Bobby continues to engage the First Selectman
 - Bobby would like to offer a community conversation, once a season, that represents a relevant community topic
 - Two current topics: transgender student athletes and affordable housing
 - How does this committee engage in and/or facilitate these conversations that impact the Town?
 - Buy-in from the First Selectman is critical when engaging in such topics, especially since this is a committee he did not develop
 - Must balance presenting diverse viewpoints with taking a stance on topics
 - Political landscape has changed since the development of this committee
- Bobby to continue to research other community diversity groups and their membership policies and practices
 - Two groups would like to join this committee, including the Greenwich Parent Teacher Advisory Council

- This committee must establish membership guidelines
 - Historically, the group included representatives from non-profit organizations, faith-based communities, private and public schools, and the BOE
 - Must ensure our expectations and that we

4. Diversity Contest Updates

- Contest flyer sent to schools little later than planned
- YWCA Greenwich will build website to showcase submissions
- Most of the award money has been raised by GDHS through the Fairfield County's Giving Day
 - Still need to raise \$900
 - Ted Pardoe suggested sending and appeal for support to the Fellowship of Clergy Board
 - Moving forward this committee must develop sustainable plan to raise money for the contest
- Hope to offer an in-person award ceremony at Town Hall at 4pm to recognize students and judges
 - As in the past, this meeting would replace the May Committee meeting
 - Some concerns about meetings in May meetings, conflicts with end of school activities
 - Might consider earlier date for ceremony in the future

5. Announcements/Updates from Committee members

Department of Humans Services

- May is Mental Health Awareness Month
- Working on proclamation
- Will introduce the Suicide Postvention Task Force

Youth Services

- In partnership with young people in the community and Greenwich Together and Generation SOS will offer a program that encourages young adults to speak about mental health and substance misuse
 - Event to be held at Arch Street, May 15
 - Pizza and gift cards will be offered to participants
 - Flyers will be forwarded to members of the group

Greenwich High School

- Working with PTAC and Common Circles to develop program related to the Holocaust
 - Hope to solidify programming planning by September

Junior League

- Will sponsor a cycle safety academy on May 1
 - Flyers will be sent to committee members

YWCA Greenwich

- There will be a week of Stand Against Racism activities at the end of the month
 - Panel discussion between women and high school girls in Greenwich, Tuesday, April 26, 7pm
 - They will discuss intersectionality, gender, race, and class
 - The multiracial and multigenerational panel will include students from GHS, SHG, Connie Blunden (from GA), and Pilar Ramos (YWCA board member)
- Annual Stand Against Racism event on Friday, April 9, 12pm, Town Hall
 - YWCA Greenwich Gender and Racial Justice Scholarship will be presented to winners at the event
 - Event banner will be displayed on a fire truck
- The Stand Against Racism Challenge has already started about a week ago

- 20 days of virtual content on race, racism, and oppression and focused on critical race theory, a living wage, and reproductive rights
- Started about a week ago

6. Next Meeting May 10, 2022

7. Adjournment: 12:50pm