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=VitLdGt5bkZEdFVlMFZXV2p0eWttZz09

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
     o Need to confirm First Selectman’s substitute
     o 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
     o Virtual meetings are convenient
     o 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?
     o Bobby continues to engage the First Selectman
     o 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
     o 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
     o 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
     o 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
     o Event to be held at Arch Street, May 15
     o Pizza and gift cards will be offered to participants
     o 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
     o Hope to solidify programming planning by September

Junior League
   • Will sponsor a cycle safety academy on May 1
     o 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
     o 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
     o YWCA Greenwich Gender and Racial Justice Scholarship will be presented to winners at the event
     o Event banner will be displayed on a fire truck
   • The Stand Against Racism Challenge has already started about a week ago
6. Next Meeting May 10, 2022

7. Adjournment: 12:50pm