



First Selectman's Community Diversity Advisory Committee
MAY 2016 MINUTES

Pamela Toper-Chair, Karen Chaplin-Vice Chair, Alma Rutgers-Immediate Past Chair, Erica Mahoney, Asst. Director of Human Resources, Jennifer Flatow-Family Centers, Inc., Bob DeAngelo-YMCA, Adrienne Singer-YWCA, Lauren Franciamore-Community Centers, Inc, Mary Ann Hohl-Human Resources Administrator, Barbara Heins, Exec. Asst. to First Selectman Tesei,

Meeting called to order at 12:04pm.

Nominating: Slate to announced- Pamela Toper for Chair, Jennifer Flatow for Vice Chair. Voting at the June meeting.

Diversity Contest: 80 entries so far. Each judge reads 20 entries choosing 6 as finalists. All judges read 24 remaining entries. Judges: John Bruenig/Greenwich Time, Shelley Karlen, Connie Narea, Margaret Walsh/Greenwich Library, Alma Rutgers.

Community Diversity Celebration:

Discussion of liability relative to food prep for event. Discussed use of food trucks..who would bear the expense? Permit needed for food cooking and YMCA does not have an industrial kitchen. Churches are exempt from the permit issue. Bake sale as option? In trying to address food issue does it take away from the intent of the event? The two benefits of using the YMCA had been that it was a continuation of a community idea that brought families together and the expansion of a variety of cultures cooking was a great idea to blend both ideas. YWCA offered their facility as an idea. The date would then change...it could be combined with their Family Fun Day on September 10th. Have two events? Connect the two? To be discussed further at the June meeting.

Fall Event:

Chair Pamela met Dr. Kareem Adeeb at a seminar; he has agreed to join our committee. She raised the possibility of the fall event to focus on Islamophobia. There was a suggestion of a panel comprised of an Iman, Rabbi and preacher to discuss the similarities of the various religions. Pamela will meet with Dr. Adeeb and determine a possible topic.

Another suggestion for the committee was to enlist the ADL for a workshop on Strengthening Community Bonds. The cost for the workshop is \$1000...discussion was about who would attend? Would the First Selectman's Office support this financially? Should the workshop be offered to 25-50 community leaders who would then bring the components back to the greater community in future trainings? Pamela will ask the ADL how best to situate this workshop to gain the best exposure and benefit.

Meeting concluded at 12:50p

Respectfully submitted, Karen Chaplin, Vice Chair