



First Selectman's Community Diversity Advisory Committee JUNE 2016 MINUTES

Pamela Topper-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, Michelle Pennino-YWCA-Dir. Member Services, Randy Susanna, Sergio Wadek

Meeting called to order at 12:10pm.

Nominating: Unanimous committee vote: Pamela Topper for Chair, Jennifer Flatow for Vice Chair.

Diversity Contest: 80 entries were submitted. The final winners:

First Place – Rahul Subramaniam, 9th grade, Greenwich High School
Second Place – William Yin, 11th grade, Greenwich High School
Third Place – Sanju Sathish, 11th grade, Greenwich High School
Honorable Mention – Julia Pogge, 11th grade, Convent of the Sacred Heart (3rd time winner)
Honorable Mention – Elizabeth Murray, 11th grade, Greenwich High School
Honorable Mention – Natalie Lilien, 11th grade, Greenwich High School

Community Diversity Celebration:

The first event will be held in collaboration with the YWCA Family Fun Day on September 10th. Michelle Pennino has suggested that they can possibly get the café to create some foods that reflect different cultures. Jennifer suggested having students create flags. A suggestion of songs reflecting different cultures, should music group play or import our own music?

Fall Events:

Chair Pamela broached the potential for Dr. Kareem Adeeb to conduct a workshop/discussion on Islamophobia. The final topic has yet to be decided. Some brief discussion of the make-up of the panel. Pamela will meet with Dr. Adeeb and determine a possible topic.

The other event suggestion was the ADL workshop on Strengthening Community Bonds. The cost for the workshop is \$1000...Chair Topper noted that the First Selectman's Office could not offer financial support. With Jennifer Flatow/Family Centers, Inc leading the charge...the other agencies present all volunteered funds to cover the cost of \$1000! It is the intention to include those agencies not present and to ask others to assist as this lessens the cost to each entity. To be determined is who would attend as they will then lead further community workshops.

New Business: Chair Pamela noted that the current committee name is cumbersome. Simply dropping "Community does not change the focus or mission. Committee agreed.
New name going forward is: **The First Selectman's Diversity Advisory Committee**

Respectfully submitted, Karen Chaplin