First Selectman’s Diversity Advisory Committee  
Meeting Date: Monday, October 7, 2019  
Location: Gisborne Room, Greenwich Town Hall  
Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 12 at noon in the Gisborne Room

Members Present: Pamela Toper, Mary Lee Kiernan, Dr. Alan Barry, Rev. Ted. Pardoe, Jennifer Flatow, Shamain Johnson, Danielle Sittol, Bobby Walker, Jr, Tony Johnson

Agenda Items:

1. Call to Order: was made by Pamela Toper, Chairman at 12:05PM.
2. Website Updates  
   a. Danielle to send past minutes to Pamela Toper for review, they will then be accessible on our website.
   b. Danielle to also send around an updated member list to all for review of contact information.
   c. Rev. Ted suggested a link to the Fellowship of Clergy be included under his contact information. It was then decided that each organization will update their information with a link for their organizations and we will look to include
   d. We also still need to take a group photo as Hale was not at this meeting.
3. Panel Discussion {The Rise of White Nationalism}  
   a. There was considerable discussion on date and location as Greenwich Town Hall is almost entirely booked for the month of November.
   b. Pamela has a commitment from the ADL to be available on November 18th. If we move forward with this date, we will need to find an alternate location.
      i. Mary Lee did offer the YWCA as an option.
      ii. The Cone Room is available 11/14 (Town Hall)
   c. We will have a follow up call on Wednesday (10/16) at noon to discuss further and make a final decision. Mary Lee will help to coordinate a dial-in number
   d. At this time, we have commitments from ADL and Greenwich PD to be a part of the panel (other asks are out by the group and need to also be finalized on 10/16 so we can begin to promote).
   e. We also need to identify a moderator: a suggestion was made to have Rev. Ted to do so, he will consider.
4. American Islam Project  
   a. Rev. Ted to check with Tammy at Greenwich Town Hall for possible dates (our preference is January 14th or 15th, 2020).
   b. There is also the possibility of including Greenwich High School students in this event as well.
   c. Also confirmed is a Shiite Muslim gentleman who will participate (Rev. Ted did not have the name for this meeting).

A question was raised by Shamain Johnson as to what the goal was of this proposed presentation. The answer is education, and to foster conversations about difficult yet relevant
subjects that will spark meaningful discussions amongst our town residents. There is the ongoing question also of “What is Part Two?” ...so we plan and execute yet another event, but what is the takeaway and what are the action steps. Tony Johnson asked: How do we have these conversations, have people open their eyes yet remain thoughtful and make it seem as though we are pointing fingers at how we are getting it wrong in Greenwich. Mary Lee shared that the YWCA has embarked on a new project called D.I.V.E. (Diversity, Inclusion, Values Equity) = this is a comprehensive curriculum to have adult conversations that includes interactive models along with a set of exercises that helps those participating to experience someone else’s life experiences. Mary Lee said that the Diversity Advisory Committee could take advantage of this in the future. The group was very interested.

5. Youth Commission Project: Danielle Sittol  
   a. Planning is progressing and the date is February 2020

6. Immigration Guide/ 2nd Printing: Pamela Toper  
   a. Funds are needed for a second printing. Rev. Ted shared that he has some access to funding through the Fellowship of Clergy and will look into it. The cost is approximately $500-$1,000  
   b. Abilis needs to submit information (J. Flatow)

7. Revisit Immigration Project: Bobby Walker, Jr. and Committee members  
   a. It was determined by the group that we would remove this from the agenda going forward. There are other organizations locally in Stamford who have their finger on the pulse of immigration issues, and should we need or want to partner with them in the future we can reach out to them directly.

8. Alma Rutgers Diversity Contest: Danielle Sittol and Committee members  
   a. For the November 2019 meeting date (12th) Danielle will have prompts and rubrics to share with the group.  
   b. Danielle will also update timeline and will also offer options for a space to display the expanded submissions that will include artwork and other mediums, ideally a local gallery or space at the library (depending on their renovation and availability).

9. New Project Ideas: Committee Members  
   a. Tony Johnson would like to explore the notion of socio/economic justice, and shared details of what Loyola University has done by creating a school within a school under a different name that allows students to enter a course of study for a period of two years, accumulate zero debt, have a part-time job and then also have the opportunity to transfer to the main Loyola (or another academic institution).  
   b. Bobby Walker Jr. has a contact that he will reach out to (Economic Disparity in America)/Dedrick Mohammed.  
   c. Rev. Ted will reach out to Garrett Moran who is local on this subject as well.  
   
We will explore economic disparity in Greenwich- especially within public housing (where people do work, are employed but are living within the confines of public housing).

10. Next Meeting Date: November 12, 2019, Gisborne Room.

11. Meeting Adjourned: 1:03PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jennifer Flatow