First Selectman’s Diversity Advisory Committee Minutes
Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 12:00pm

Zoom Meeting: https://greenwichct.zoom.us/j/86854286293/pwd=ZjhxZUIT2o4NG5NbEJ4N21WdmtLQT09
Password: 1646056, Dial: 1 646 518 9805, Webinar ID: 868 5428 6293

In Attendance:
Garfield Charles, Jennifer Flatow, Mary Forde, Danielle Jean-Guillaume Sittol, Anthony Johnson, Mary Lee Kiernan, Clarena McBeth, Demetria Nelson, Ted Pardoe, Pamela Toper, David Rabin, Gaby Rattner, Bobby Walker, Jr

Agenda Items:

Call to Order
Jennifer Flatow, Chairman at 12:04pm

1. Approval of September 2020 Meeting Minutes
   Motion to Approve: J. Flatow, Seconded: T. Pardoe

2. Compassion Campaign
   - Request for feedback on Committee initiative to take place in the coming months
   - Initiated by BW and JF and included conversations w/FC
   - Given Zoom fatigue, how can we be most effective in our virtual world?
   - Committee commits to model and promote respectful discourse, through a mini campaign/series of short videos (30 sec to a min long), goal: to create something simple, positive, and powerful
   - Ted discussed a video created by clergy in Massachusetts: https://www.capenews.net/falmouth/unmasking-racism-video/video_d00e86eb-d9c6-50ce-bf85-08becb492966.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share, discussion of masks and bias
   - Reflection on related activity in the community:
     - GC: HS will be hosting a candidate debate on 10/30, an opportunity to showcase respectful discourse
     - Greenwich Academy hosted a conversation with a democratic state rep with her republican spouse, opportunity for youth to see the modeling of healthy disagreement
     - Virtual open house at EMS: Social Studies teacher communicated that the elections would not be addressed, but the election process would be discussed, stressing that youth understand the importance of this process and the value of voting and respect
   - Project for committee members: make a video inspired by the Compassion Campaign and put on your personal and organization’s social media platforms, can tag the First Selectman’s office to demonstrate that we are all in this together
   - GC suggested an informal contest for youth, kids can be creative and really involved in this conversation, video can be used to encourage discussion and reflection
   - MF suggested series on civility in politics, sports, in public discourse, etc.
     - How do we complain, yet still be productive and positive?
     - The beginning of many of conversations beyond this fall and election day
   - Middle school and high school students would have different ideas, hope to engage all youth
   - GC: How can you be a civil loser? This is not part of our culture in Town.
     - Kids have a hard time losing, need strategies, half of the people who vote will lose
     - College application process: focus on successful students, mastery in academia and major fields, this process is difficult for those who are not “traditionally successful”
     - It is particularly important to know how to deal with not being successful or achieving one’s goals
   - TP: How about the flip side? We need to consider the idea of “gracious winners” no matter the outcome.
   - Youth Commission committed to selecting peers with broad interests and skills, there was a deliberate effort to consider non-traditional/atypical candidates
• BW, JF, and DJ-GS to meet about logistics of this project
  o Will encourage video from First Selectman’s office too

3. Committee Member Updates
   
   Youth Commission
   • Hidden in Plain Sight, tonight 10/13, near 200 people registered
   • Diversity Conference: Virtual event, February 2021
   • Defining Diversity Contest, May 2021
   
   YWCA
   • DIVE (Diversity, Inclusion, Values, and Equity) training
     o Four, 90-minute modules, can be offered to any organization, lots of positive feedback
     o Perhaps offer training to First Selectman’s Diversity Advisory Committee
   
   YWCA and Fellowship of Clergy
   • Plans to present excerpts from *Emanuel*, about the shooting in Charleston, SC, anticipated date: Nov 17, via Zoom
   • Hope to invite Miss Polly Sheppard whose life was spared by Dylann Roof
   • Adrienne and Steve Reedy to lead conversation
   • Would like committee members’ logos on promotional material for this event
   
   GHS
   • HS focusing on creating series of activities focused on student voice in collaboration with another clubs, might have a calendar to share next meeting
   
   CCI
   • Moved to St. Roch’s, old YMCA bldg.
   • Working on new initiatives, will share in the next 6 to 8 weeks
   
   Department of Human Services
   • Will continue to support youth initiatives
   • Interested in introducing DIVE training to GDHS
   
   Housing Greenwich Communities/Formally, Greenwich Housing Authority
   • Armstrong Court: gut rehab to start late Nov early Dec, two existing bldgs. currently vacant
   • Late Nov/early Dec, submit planning & zoning for 51-unit senior/disabled unit for McKinney Terrace
   
   Junior League
   • Vicki Clark, consultant with 40 years of training experience, will offer training on FB: *Let’s Talk About It & Do Something*

4. Website
• Looking for Committee’s mission statement
  o JF will review old articles and historical documents
• JF and BW encourage members’ ideas for the agenda, create conversations

5. Next Meeting Date: 11/10/20

Adjourn: 12:50pm