First Selectman’s Diversity Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2019
Location: Gisborne Room, Greenwich Town Hall
Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 10 at noon in the Gisborne Room

Members Present: Pamela Toper, Dr. Alan Barry, Rev. Ted. Pardoe, Jennifer Flatow, Danielle Sittol, Bobby Walker, Jr., Hale McSharry

Agenda Items:

1. Call to Order: was made by Pamela Toper, Chairman at 12:06 PM.
2. Minutes from October 2019 meeting were distributed and reviewed. One correction to be made per Rev. Ted Pardoe was to not have a link to the Fellowship of Clergy, but just a mention of it when we get to full website updates for each Committee member. Jen Flatow to make these changes. A motion was made to approve the amended minutes by Dr. Barry, second by Bobby Walker, Jr.
3. Panel on The Rise of White Nationalism
   a. The committee ran out of time to properly plan for this event. We will not look to new panelists—perhaps from academia (both Dr. Barry and Bobby Walker, Jr. to take a deep dive into some options). We also need a new date—thinking late March/early April (that works around all private and public school vacations. Pamela Toper to connect with Mary Lee Kiernan to determine if YWCA would still be available. Bobby Walker, Jr. to reach out to newly elected First Selectman Camillo to share with him programming to garner his support as well.
4. Website Updates
   a. Continues to be in-progress. Hale McSharry suggested a photo with the First Selectman for our December meeting. Bobby Walker, Jr. to confirm that the committee will indeed continue under the new First Selectman and that he is able to attend our December meeting.
5. Social Justice
   a. Dr. Barry offered to work with Tony Johnson on the exploration and planning of this topic for a possible community event/panel discussion. Pamela Toper also offered to reach out to Joan Mockler at the YWCA for her input and assistance.
6. American Islam Project
   a. The program is set for January 14, 2020 from 6:30-8:00pm in the Cone Room at Town Hall, Rev. Ted will see Hanadi in the coming week and will confirm additional panelists.
7. Youth Commission Project
   a. The date is 2/1/2020, location is Greenwich Academy
   b. Students have indicated that they do not want a featured speaker, they are just looking for guidance in the planning of the day and are currently reaching out to their key contacts throughout town and trying to identify school advocates. Last year there was one student who took the lead and his year the project is being collectively led by a group of students. Being that it’s November, there is a considerable amount of planning
and training that needs to take place in preparation for the event, but the group is meeting the week of the 18th and will have more action steps on place.

8. Immigration Project
   a. To be removed from the agenda going forward.

9. Immigration Resource Guide
   a. Rev. Ted shared that he has a meeting with the Fellowship on 11/21/2020 and he will request funding for a second printing. Pamela Toper met someone from Harvest Church (a non-denomination church located on King Street) who would like to be a part of the Immigration Resource Guide.

10. Diversity Writing Contest
    a. Danielle is still trying to define what the students will write and reflect on this year, but the contest still aims to include more than just the written word, they will incorporate other art/creative mediums.
       i. There was also discussion around the topic being political in nature given that 2020 is an election year, overall the committee is in agreement that we do need to pay special attention to the topic.
    b. YWCA is available to host the submissions leading up to the ceremony- Danielle is also working on the timeline.
    c. Greenwich Alliance for Education has indicated that they are interested in once providing support for the prizes for the students-Danielle is going to also look at other sponsors for the event.
    d. Gary suggested trying to engage local colleges/universities to provide a version of auditing a class as a prize for the contest- to be further examined.

11. Next Meeting Date: December 10, 2019, Gisborne Room
12. In the meantime, the Committee is to consider new topics for the group
13. Meeting Adjourned: 12:49PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Flatow