First Selectman’s Diversity Advisory Committee  
Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 10, 2019  
Location: Gisborne Room, Greenwich Town Hall  
Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 14 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, David Rabin, Mary Lee Kiernan, Gaby Rattner, Garfield Charles

Agenda Items:

1. Call to Order: was made by Pamela Toper, Chairman at 12:05 PM.
   a. Minutes from November 2019 meeting were distributed and reviewed. One correction to be made per Hale McSharry which was to the spelling of his name. Jen Flatow to make these changes. A motion was made to approve the amended minutes by Pamela Toper and second by Dr. Barry.

2. American Islam Project:
   a. The panel is set for Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at Town Hall in the Cone Room. Panelists include: Kujegi Camara-Muslim Community Network, Hanadi Doleh-Interfaith Center of NY, Hussein Rashid, PhD- islamicate, L3C. A flyer was distributed to the group and we are encouraged to share/post. Hale will promote on Facebook and Rev. Ted will send to contacts at local schools and will also check in with Greenwich PD about security night of. Press coverage is also being arranged.

3. Panel on the Rise of White Nationalism
   a. This program is in the process of being rescheduled. The committee members discussed March/April working around private and public school vacations. Mary Lee Kiernan will review availability to host at YWCA.
   b. Confirmed panelists are: a member of Greenwich PD and representation from ADL. Dr. Barry is still working on a possible academic contact to take part.

4. Website
   a. Group photos were taken at today’s meeting. Danielle to send Jen Flatow the current committee list for review. We would like to begin to track attendance at monthly meetings.
   b. The following is the link to our page on the Town of Greenwich website: https://www.greenwichct.gov/705/Diversity-Advisory-Committee
      i. The site is up to date with meeting minutes and agendas.

5. Social Justice Program
   a. This program was initially proposed by committee member Tony Johnson who was not present at today’s meeting. Bobby Walker Jr. offered to reach out to Tony to gauge his interest in pursuing the planning of this program.
   b. Timeline would be second half of 2020.
   c. Some committee members did express concerns as to how this type of program would be received, messaging needs to be clear as the needs assessment that is conducted by the Greenwich United Way provides data on economic challenges within the Town of
Greenwich (projected to be ready to the public September 2020). Would there be an action step to this program? Rev. Ted offered to reach out to Garret Moran and Bobby Walker Jr. offered to reach out to Dedrick Muhammed (both are potential panelists). Dr. Barry also mentioned the recent Greenwich Economic Forum that was held in town in November and proposed that one or more of those presenters (Ray Dalio or Paul Tudor Jones) might be interested in speaking on this topic—perhaps framing the conversation around structural racism and the redistribution of wealth or socioeconomic diversity and acceptance and gear it towards the school or student populations?

6. Youth Commission Project
   a. The date is 2/1/2020, location is Greenwich Academy
   b. Danielle has steadily been working on this, but the group as a whole seems to be behind in planning (last year there was one student who really took the lead and was heavily invested). Danielle is trying to reinforce with the group that there was not a concrete takeaway from the 2019 program for each school, Danielle’s goal is to guide them so that the message remains long after the actual day. Danielle has reached out to keynote speaker

7. Immigration Resource Guide
   a. A draft was distributed to the committee; any edits should be sent to: Joan Mockler at j.mockler@ywca-greenwich.org
   b. Rev. Ted is still looking into a donation to cover the cost of printing the guide.
   c. Pamela to follow up on any funding that may be available from the First Selectman’s Office.

8. Alma Rutgers Diversity Contest
   a. Danielle is reviewing the prompts from the past 10 years for the contest and is leaning towards making the 2020 contest a reflection on embracing intersecting identities and celebrating individuality.
   b. There will be three categories to be judged
      i. Art
      ii. Writing
      iii. Digital Media
   c. Danielle still looking for support on prizes

9. Next Meeting Date: January 14, 2020, Gisborne Room
   a. Pamela, Bobby and Jen to meet with the First Selectman on January 7, 2020

10. Meeting Adjourned: 12:49PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Flatow