

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION COMMISSION MINUTES
7:00p.m. THURSDAY, December 8, 2022.

Present:

X	David Martin, Liaison		Nathan Cookson
X	Diane Randolph Jones, Co-chair	X	Sunanda Pepalla
X	Julie Pierce		Lingya Zhou
X	Sandra Hinds, Clerk		Ruby Lillie
X	Melissa Kaplan Morse, Co-chair	X	Suravi Bhatia
X	Makena Muindi		

I. Regular Business

Called to order at 7:04 p.m.

1. Notes from Co-Chair Melissa Kaplan Morse:

- The Town Manager said they were bringing in five strong DEI Director candidates for interviews the week of December 12, 2022.
- Sunday, December 18, 2022 at 9:15 a.m., Congregation Beth Elohim will present a program on addressing antisemitism. Rabbi Ron Fish, East Division Director of Antisemitism Education and Advocacy for the Anti-Defamation League, will be the featured speaker. Rabbi Fish will discuss ADL's response to current antisemitic events in greater Boston and how they can be addressed.

II. Guest Speakers:

Zoey Mills, Acton Memorial Community Engagement Librarian spoke about the upcoming Acton town-wide Lunar New Year Celebration that will take place on January 21, 2023, 1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. Ms. Mills said that she was looking for opportunities to collaborate with organizations within the community and to get help in finding performers and presenters for the event.

Melissa Settignano-Rufo, Town of Acton Recreation Director, spoke about upcoming events and asked for help/ideas for the gala fundraiser that will take place in February 2023, and the Pride Event on June 17, 2023, 12 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Nara Park. She also talked about the Open Space Plan for the Recreation Department (RD). She would like the DEI Commission to assist the RD in coming up with some diversity goals. It was interesting to note that the RD is self-funded and any additional funds raised will go back into creating more programs from that department.

III. Closing Items

2. Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting

David Martin moved and Sandra Hinds seconded to approve the minutes of October 27, 2022. Unanimously approved.

3. Next meeting: Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

4. Adjourn

David Martin moved and Julie Pierce seconded to adjourn.

Unanimously approved.

Adjourned at 8:14 p.m.