

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION COMMISSION MINUTES  
7:00 p.m. THURSDAY Nov 14th, 2024

Present:

X	David Martin, liaison		Suravi Bhatia, student
X	Melissa Kaplan Morse, co-chair	X	Wanjiku Gachugi, liaison
X	Sunanda Pepalla, clerk	X	Zayd Dhasthageer, student
X	Diane Randolph Jones, co-chair		
X	Sandra Hinds		

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.

**Regular Business**

**1. Notes from the Co-Chairs**

a. Leadership Coalition against Hate and Bias Speech September update:

- Recruiting new community members participation.
- Assessing needs for moving forward specifically diverse representation, response to hate and bias events and additional training needed.

**b. DEI Director and Commissioner Liaison Updates:**

- 60th Anniversary Civil Rights Celebration November 17<sup>th</sup> at The Embrace, Tremont Street in Boston. Sponsored by Coalition for Anti-Racism and Equity (CARE)
- Community documentary screening on Nov 19<sup>th</sup> @6 pm of “Who We Are, A Chronicle of Racism in America.”
- Acton Planning Board Info and Feedback Session (Nov 19<sup>th</sup>, 11:30-1:00PM and 5-6:30 PM)
  - i. How Acton can re-envision residential housing development.
  - ii. Learn about Task and Advisory Group priorities.
  - iii. Learn about subdivision process and how Acton can improve on it.

**2. New Commissioner Search (Sandra and Zayd)**

- a. Reviewed and provided feedback on the draft flyer design.
- b. Discussed avenues and channels for posting the flyer to garner interest: article in Acton Exchange, town hall bulletin board, library bulletin board, Digital Backpack, Municipal Monthly, Newsflash and High School principal’s newsletter.

### **3. Volunteer Form Comments**

- a. Discussed comments. Specifically, agreed that paper copies, in addition to electronic copies, of the application could improve accessibility. The Application could be translated into the top three languages in town, and interpreters could be available for the volunteer interview. David will provide previous survey data for drafting optional demographic information.
- b. Action: Melissa to revise comments based on Commissioner's discussion.

### **4. Juneteenth Walk Discussion**

- a. Action: Sunada to provide a draft of planning milestones, key collaborator organizations to help plan the event.
  - Permission needed for stops and parking.
  - Presentation to Select Board for approval and memo.
  - List of key collaborations and volunteers from community organizations
  - Get a steering committee in place (Action: Wangiku)
  - Subgroups identified that will bring updates to the steering committee.
  - stop #1 Meeting house hill (speaker, poets, or other activities)
  - stop #2 Town hall (flags and have a different activity)
  - stop #3 Arboretum (local band, food, art and sculpture display, message in the phone booth structure)

### **Closing Items**

- Confirm upcoming meetings and events.
- Adjourn (Sunanda moved, Sandra seconded)