

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION COMMISSION MINUTES
7:00 p.m. THURSDAY Jan 9th, 2025

Present:

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

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Regular Business

1. Updates from the Co-Chairs

- New Commissioner Search
 - Melissa authored an article on Action Unlimited that will be available by 1/8. Article will be rerun with changes every couple of weeks.
 - Latest version of the flyer to be shared by Melissa with the commission for sharing.
 - **Sunanda: Post flyer to online parent and school community.**
 - **Melissa: Look to post flyer at town library.**
 - **Sandra: Connect with Vivian Birchall at Acton TV.**
 - **Zayd: Send flyer to HS principal to share in school newsletter.**
- Housing Production Plan Survey and Forum
 - David, Melissa and Wanjiku are participants, upcoming Community Forum mtg 1/30.
 - **David has sent a survey to Commissioners, who are encouraged to respond.**
 - **Zayd will have the survey added to the high school newsletter.**
- MLK day breakfast Jan 20th 9:30-12 pm @ Congregation Beth Elohim
 - Speaker: Colette Phillips
 - Topic: Bridging Communities: Re-affirming the Black-Jewish Alliance
 - Attendance can be in person or online.
 - Registration preferred: <https://www.bethelohim.org/event/mlk-2025>.

2. Updates from the DEI Director

- No new incidents to report.

3: Commissioner Updates & Discussion

1. Commissioner Liaison Updates:
 - Monthly legal tenant clinics at the Senior Center: Assist tenants in the community with advice.
2. Volunteer Application Update:
 - Incorporated all feedback and needed one more open action on race categories to be confirmed by Diane before finalization.
3. Juneteenth
 - Focus on creating a diverse steering committee.
 - Actions: Sunanda, David, Zayd and Melissa to connect with leads for steering committee.
4. Mission, Vision, and Values Discussion
 - Continue:
 - Education
 - Awareness
 - Start:
 - Theme: Action in the community and with the community
 - Sunanda recommended the next mtg agenda to focus on this segment and planning of Juneteenth to ensure progress.

Closing Items

- Approved December 12, 2024, meeting minutes (Moved Sunanda, Seconded Sandra)
- Confirm upcoming meetings and events – February 13, 2025
- Meeting adjourned (Moved Sandra, Seconded Zayd)