

Meeting Minutes
Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Task Force (EDIT) Committee
Via Zoom
Thursday, February 17, 2022

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Andrea Fonseca 7:30pm

Attendance:

Present:

Andrea Fonseca Co-Chairman
Jonathan Tropp Vice -Chairman
Danny Wisneski
David Rosenburg
Tara Figueroa
Lincoln Johnson
Marty Isaac (Alternate)

Not Present:

Dede Robinson
Zdena Quinn (Alternate)

Also Present:

James Cardone, Town Attorney

Public Session

**Dr. Hosam Afifi, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Bridgeport Islamic Community Center
20 Heatherfield Drive, Trumbull, CT 06611**

Dr. Hosam Afifi had met with First Selectman Vicki Tesoro regarding since the number of Muslim students in Trumbull Public Schools has increased it make sense for the town to recognize Muslim holidays recognized next year. The Board of Education has not indicated whether this was voted on. Dr. Afifi wanted to bring this to the attention of the organization, as Muslims are new to the country, and these individuals have come from many countries.

Ellie Grasso, 24 Indian Road, Trumbull, CT 06611

Ellie Grasso wanted to let everyone know that Trumbull Library hosted a podcast called Blindspot Tulsa Burning. This was the 100-year anniversary of the massacre of May of 1921. This podcast was six episodes which were each 40 minutes and gave a wonderful perspective to not take these incidences separate but look at history and how it affects other incidences.

Public Correspondence:

Email from Ellie Grasso

Ms. Epstein wanted the group members and all members of the public that did not know that the Trumbull Library hosted a podcast called Blindspot Tulsa Burning as it is important to reflect the past to learn from this matter.

Email from Janet Epstein

Ms. Epstein wanted the group members to know how important EDIT's agenda is to the community and allows for a forum where individual can address all concerns. She also wanted to know how many individuals from the public attended the Public Forum.

Email from Dr. Afifi

Dr. Afifi wanted the group members to be aware that he is trying to get the Trumbull Public School System to recognize two Muslim holidays a year as there are many Muslim students that attend Trumbull Public Schools.

Mr. Tropp indicated that he thought that all group members should receive the minutes in real time . Mr. Isaac indicated that any group member should have the ability to respond to any emails from the public. Mr. Hayes stated that he will send all email correspondence to each of the group members. Ms. Figueroa indicated that that the minutes from the previous meeting

Approval of Minutes

December 16, 2021

Mr. Tropp MOVED to approve the December 16th , second by Mr. Isaac with no objections approving said motion. The minutes were approved unanimously by all members which included alternate members.

January 13, 2022

Mr. Tropp MOVED to table consideration of the January 13th , seconded by Mr. Wisneski with no objection approving said motion. The minutes were approved unanimously by all members which included alternate members.

January 20, 2022

Mr. Tropp MOVED to table consideration of the January 20th , seconded by Mr. Wisneski with no objection approving said motion. The minutes were approved unanimously by all members which included alternate members.

Guest Speakers:

Danielle Haniph, Student at St. Joseph's High School in Trumbull

Trumbull Sources One Feather Mural Project . When the mural is finished it will resemble a bird with outstretched wings. Danielle compared Trumbull residents to birds as they are individuals, but only together can the members of the Trumbull community soar as one, which is the theme of the projects. When the children finished with their projects feedback is given to each child. There will be two murals or birds that will be displayed in April at a kiosk in the Trumbull Nature Arts Center and the Trumbull Public Library.

Sheryl Baumann, Director of the Trumbull Nature and Arts Center

Danielle came to the Trumbull Nature and Arts Center which financed this project. Ms. Baumann stated that the organization's goal is to be very inclusive. Every summer one hundred students are brought to the Trumbull Nature Arts Center This project really stands for the idea of diversity first event will during Earth Week on Saturday April 16th Family Nature Fun at Trumbull Nature and Arts Center the first mural will be unveiled as well as the opening of a butterfly garden. This event is open to the public and admission is free. The following Saturday April 23rd the second mural will be unveiled at the main library in Trumbull. The Office of Economic Community Development is sponsoring this event. There will also be reading of a children book called Maybe Something Beautiful, which explores inclusivity and diversity.

Ms. Figueroa inquired whether EDIT could advertise events of Trumbull Nature and Arts Center through social media. Ms. Baumann was very receptive to this and stated that she already has printed about four thousand fliers and are very encouraged that EDIT would like to promote the organization's events.

Mr. Isaac believes that representatives from the Trumbull Police Department should have attended this meeting as it is a community concern and for group members to learn more about procedure.

Ms. Figueroa

As per Town Attorney James Cardone, the minutes will reflect the Police Commissioner interview submitted by Ms. Figueroa and the Economic Development Report submitted by Mr. Wisneski earlier last year.

Mr. Rosenberg stated that Dr. Semmel, Superintendent of Trumbull Public Schools followed up with EDIT and made clear that he would find out who he could send from his staff to attend the March 17th meeting. The email that was sent to Dr. Semmel was forwarded to Ms. Timpanelli of the Trumbull Board of Education by the Office of Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Rosenberg will follow up with Dr. Semmel regarding the March meeting with the Trumbull Board of Education.

Ms. Figueroa suggested that an invitation be sent out to Dr. Iwanicki, Assistant Superintendent of Trumbull Public Schools

Fairfield Racial Justice Proposal

The meeting occurred on January 31, 2022, at the Fairfield Town Hall. The idea was to invite one of the co-chairs of the Fairfield Racial Justice Task Force to a future meeting. Ms. Figueroa will circulate the Fairfield Proposal at the end of the meeting.

Mr. Isaac believes that EDIT should invite a member of the Fairfield Racial Justice Task Force to review said proposal at any future meeting and it should be limited to a twenty-minute dialogue as to not interfere with the other invitations.

Data Haven

The Data Haven results are detailed so it would make sense to divide each area by group members. Ms. Fonseca believes that the results of the Data Haven research would help to make recommendations to the Trumbull Town Council.

Mr. Isaac believes that the results from the Data Haven research should be used as background information to serve as data points.

Ms. Figueroa wonders if there are materials available on Trumbull Police Department procedure to review before the members of the Police Department meet with EDIT.

Mr. Isaac believes that since town police procedure is a complex topic it is important that a member of the Trumbull Police Department explain training and legal issues of the procedure.

Mr. Trop MOVED to adjourn meeting, which was seconded . The meeting is adjourned at 8:22pm.

