

Draft of the Minutes, EDIT Meeting of August 17, 2023, on Zoom

Present: Chair, Jonathan Tropp, Challa Flemming, Vice Chair, Rick Bolton, David Rosenburg, Tara Figueroa, Chris Powell

Absent: Kalim Jan

Also Present William Chin, Town of Trumbull Technology Director, Joanne Glasser Orenstein, Clerk

Mr. Tropp called the meeting to order at 7:32pm. Mr. Tropp announced he had received a letter of resignation from Kalim Jahn; he thanked him for his work on the committee.

Correspondence: Mr. Tropp said he had received two e-mails from Ellie Grosso, the first thanking the committee for their work and an urge to pursue the book club. The second was a statement of delight for the books chosen.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and roll call completed.

Public Comment: None.

Mr. Rosenburg made a motion to accept the Minutes of May 18, 2023, Mr. Bolton seconded.
VOTE: all in favor.

Old Business: Library:

Ms. Fleming and Mr. Tropp met with the library. They will post the poster prompt shortly. They liked the book club selections and are getting copies of the Sum of Us. Tentatively set the first date Monday November 6 at 7pm. They will be meeting again next week. They also briefly discussed the censorship panel and are on board with Sara Keitt. Ms. Keitt suggested adding Dave Rutigliano. Waiting to confirm. It will be October 2nd or 5th.

Trumbull Equity Profile, pages 1-8, Overview and Housing

Ms. Flemming said she found the summary to be very helpful. 25% of people are identified as people of color, a significant increase since 2010. There have been dramatic strides in diversity. Mr. Rosenburg wondered how things have changed since the pandemic.

PUMA includes Monroe, Newtown, Stratford and Shelton, but not Easton and Fairfield. Compared to neighbors, Trumbull seems to be faring better. Mr. Tropp pointed out that in demographics, all the categories do not show up in all of the data.

According to the 2020 Census, Trumbull grew twice as fast as the state, faster than the PUMA, and diversity increased.

Housing

Trumbull looks good compared to its neighbors. There is a high number of people who are cost burdened (more than 30% of income on housing), and 14% are extremely cost burdened (40-50%). This burden falls disproportionately on renters, who are disproportionately people of color. Mr. Rosenberg predicts this will get worse, as apartments in Trumbull are not affordable. There was a discussion of affordable housing plans in Trumbull.

Compared with PUMA, black home owners are a smaller percentage, though their cost burden is in line with other towns. Overcrowding amongst Asian families is enormously different than other groups, but there is no means to dig deeper as to why.

Mr. Tropp said the next 8 pages of the study will be discussed in September.

Essay Contest

Ms. Flemming said the group is working on a proposal. The fundamental choice is whether to pursue donations or a sponsor, or to collaborate with a Town based entity with a budget. PTSA does Reflections, perhaps they are interested in collaborating.

Diversity Training

Ms. Figueroa said it was time to follow up with HR Director Tom McCarthy.

Coverage in Trumbull Times

Suggested that the book be announced to give people time to read it by the club meeting. Probably a good time to publicize the censorship panel as well, once all the details are confirmed.

Mr. Tropp feels finding ways to publicize events is important. Ms. Figueroa said she could work on flyers, using the program CANVA, but Mr. Tropp volunteered to try it.

New Business

Historical Society

Mr. Tropp said it was time to reach out to set up a next event. Ideas were discussed: latin heritage month is September (too soon) and Indigenous Peoples Day is in October (also maybe too soon). Ms. Figueroa suggested learning about the land history in Trumbull, perhaps inviting Elders from the Reservation? Mr. Tropp said the ideal time frame for planning is 2-3 months. He thought Thanksgiving could be a good target. Ms. Flemming said perhaps we should look broader than just a speaker – maybe areas of collaboration could include a display, or a trivia night.

2024 Meeting Calendar

Mr. Tropp invited members to consider if the third Thursday of the month on Zoom still works.

2024 Programming

What do we want to do as part of collaboration with other departments, since EDIT has no budget.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Bolton, seconded by Ms. Flemming. VOTE: All in favor at 8:29.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Glasser Orenstein

August 19, 2023