

DRAFT of the Minutes of the Trumbull Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Task Force, August 18, 2022

Present: Andrea Fonseca, Chair, David Rosenburg, Tara Figueroa, Marty Isaac, Zdena Quinn; dan Wisneski; Absent from the meeting: Jonathan Tropp, Vice Chair, Dede Robinson. Lincoln Johnson has resigned.

Also present: Jim Cordone, Town of Trumbull Attorney, Paul Brown Town of Trumbull Technology Department, and Joanne Glasser Orenstein, clerk.

Andrea Fonseca called the meeting to order at 7:33pm. She noted a quorum was present.

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: None

Minutes of June 16, 2022: Mr. Rosenburg made a motion to accept the minutes, Mr. Isaac seconded. VOTE: All in favor.

Interviews

Ms. Fonseca said it was best to start with the “low hanging fruit”, those items that could be done easily and with impact. It was noted the next time to report to the Town Council could be October, as September is a very busy month.

Mr. Isaac referenced the re-active and pro-active actions proposed in June. He said it was important to find a way to celebrate all the cultures in Town, noting the Arts Festival is too late for this year as a venue. (That would be pro-active). For the re-active initiative, he thought energy toward additional holiday celebrations by the Town and at the schools was important. Eid al-Fatr and Eid al-Adha are two that have been recently cited. There are a lot of folks who celebrate these holidays, in 2023 they will happen on April 21 and June 28, respectively.

Mr. Rosenburg feels EDIT suffers a lack of PR, and they should look at every sanctioned event in Trumbull and be present: The Arts Festival, Trumbull Day to note two. We need to be seen more.

Ms. Figueroa agreed about the holidays. She added the Town needed a DEI value statement that would compliment existing Town policies.

Ms. Quinn was really impressed with the Police and especially the proposed Community Academy, that would let the public get to know them and the policies and procedures of the Department.

Mr. Wisneski suggested having a monthly piece in the Trumbull Times would get EDIT notice, as well give an opportunity for what was learned in the interviews to be highlighted, such as “5 Questions for ---“.

Mr. Rosenberg wondered if the Town Council had an opinion about EDIT’s work. Ms. Figueroa suggested having a meeting with majority and minority leaders. It was also discussed that maybe it would be best to attend a Town Council meeting, or get on their agenda. (but there was also question if there would be actual discussion in that forum). Ms. Fonseca will reach out to the TC Chairman Ashley Gaudiano.

It was decided that Mr. Wisneski would reach out to the Trumbull Times, Ms. Figueroa will draft a letter to the Board of Ed supporting the expansion of holidays celebrated in the schools. At the next meeting it can be voted on.

Mr. Tropp and Ms. Fonseca will discuss the DEI Value Statement with Town Council as a start.

Mr. Rosenberg will go through the Town Calendar of events and chose 4 for EDIT to be present.

New Business: Ms. Quinn wanted to know if missing members are getting replaced, also noting her term expires in December (as do 3 others).

Ms. Figueroa would like to commit to doing something significant for Martin Luther King Day or Black History Month. There might be budget needed. It was suggested that ideas be brought for this at the September meeting.

Ms. Figueroa made a motion to adjourn and Ms. Quinn seconded, VOTE: all in favor at 8:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Glasser Orenstein
August 19, 2022

Next Meeting: Thursday September 15, 2022.