

Draft of the Minutes of EDIT, October 20, 2022, via Zoom Platform

Present: Jonathan Tropp (acting as Chair), Rick Bolton, Tara Figueroa, Marty Isaac, Zdena Quinn

Absent: Andrea Fonseca, Dan Wisneski, Dede Robinson, David Rosenburg

Also present: Bill Chin, James Cordone

The meeting was called to order at 7:34pm by Jonathan Tropp.

The pledge was recited, roll was called: welcome to new member Rick Bolton

Correspondence: Tara Figueroa noted they were contacted via Facebook by Bill Paulsen regarding a DEI conference out of Massachusetts happening via zoom; she encouraged all who could to join on October 22. She shared the link (rotaryDEISummit.org) with the group.

Public Comment: None

Approval of the Minutes: Ms. Figueroa made the motion to approve, Mr. Isaac seconded. Mr. Tropp and Mr. Bolton were not present at the last meeting and therefore abstained, all others in favor.

A motion to amend the agenda to include new business was made by Mr. Isaac, seconded by Ms. Quinn, VOTE: all in favor.

Old Business: Mr. Tropp and Ms. Fonseca met with Council Chair Ashley Guadiano and First Selectman Vicki Tesoro in September. It was a very positive meeting. Their interest was in getting guidance and support. Even though EDIT has no budget, they are encouraged to bring action items to the Town even if there is budget involved. Ms. Guadiano reportedly said she would look for opportunities to provide that guidance. The next report to the Town Council will most likely be in December. Mr. Tropp encourages all EDIT members to attend the meeting.

The First Selectwoman reportedly said that though her office was not the party planning committee, they are happy to provide support for EDIT initiatives.

Among the items discussed was the development of a Town vision statement. Ms. Figueroa circulated since the last meeting Westport's Vision Statement. Mr. Tropp said that included a value statement he considered beyond EDIT's scope, but an equity, diversity and inclusion statement that was in the wheelhouse. So, the ball is in this committee's court to develop something for the Town of Trumbull.

Ms. Figueroa said she felt the statement should be one that hones in on the Town's commitment to diversity, inclusivity and equity. She did not feel it should introduce new concepts, but instead it should state the ways we're embracing these important concepts, encapsulating the commitment the Town has already made, and by extension, the State. It's a statement that

speaks to the agency of marginalized identities in the Town that should be brought to the forefront.

Mr. Isaac did not understand the importance of doing this: EDIT already has a mission statement, their purpose has been defined. He preferred to focus on the creation of town-wide cultural event(s), evaluating of helping groups to get the opportunity to broaden holidays celebrated in town.

Ms. Figueroa said this is a statement for the Town, not just EDIT; for the Town to emphasize that this is a welcoming place; to show what the Town stands for. Mr. Tropp concurred, and said the two were not mutually exclusive. The statement would be a beacon for how our town behaves and seeds to lead.

Process: It was agreed that Westport's statement, as well as those of other town's, should be a blueprint for our statement, as well as the recently approved Board of Education statement and EDIT's own mission statement. Ms. Figueroa will write a draft for the next meeting, and it will be discussed in November.

Participation in Town Events: Mr., Rosenberg volunteered at the last meeting and created a list of events:

- Arts Festival
- Trumbull Day
- Golf Classic
- Egg Hunt
- Halloween happenings
- Memorial Day Parade

Mr. Isaac thought the Arts Festival or Trumbull Day were the best opportunities. He is not a fan of just sitting at a booth. He said he thought one thing should be picked and do it well. He also wanted to focus on the holidays, to connect the groups with the right people so they can have a discussion and understand the process. Mr. Tropp said he thought Mr. Rosenberg saw it as a PR opportunity, but he agreed with Mr. Isaac. Ms. Quinn said she thought having an other forum with more participation would be a good focus. Ms. Figueroa wanted to identify a winter holiday to celebrate in the school, such as Kwaanza or 3 Kings Day, as well as really strongly emphasize Black History Month and Martin Luther King Day.

Mr. Tropp separated the discussion into tackling the existing events and new ones. Gave everyone homework for next meeting to look at how to use these holidays to the benefit of EDIT's mission, and get going on how to participate in Trumbull Day or the Arts Festival. Ms. Figueroa said Black History Month and MLK Day were opportunities to collaborate with the Library and the Historical Society. Partnering with them would create the opportunity to cross-amplify and tap into more members of the Town to spread the word.

Mr. Tropp volunteered Ms. Fonseca to talk to the Historical Society and he would connect with the Library.

At the last meeting, Mr. Wisneski had suggested speaking with the Trumbull Times about having a recurrent piece. He did not offer a report and was not present.

Also at the last meeting, it was decided to do a draft letter to the BofE about the celebration of holidays. After getting feedback that it would be better to meet with the Board Chair, the draft was not written. It was decided that the Board Chair, the Superintendent, others involved in deciding on the school calendar, and representatives from the interested groups would be invited to an EDIT meeting. Ms. Fonseca would invite the Town people and Mr. Isaac will reach out to the groups wanting holiday expansion.

Vacancies: Mr. Tropp said the Town Council will be filling Janine Stauder's vacant seat by year end. There are 4 or 5 seats expiring in December. If these existing members want to continue on or not, it is important to communicate that, as soon as possible. If any one is unsure if their seat is expiring, it is easy to find out.

Finally, Mr. Tropp asked committee members to let him or Ms. Fonseca know what their preferred meeting format was, moving forward, in person or on Zoom.

Mr. Bolton made the motion to adjourn, Mr. Isaac seconded and all were in favor at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Glasser Orenstein
October 31, 2022