

MEETING MINUTES
Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Task Force (EDIT)
General Meeting, Thursday, October 21, 2021
7:00pm at Long Hill Conference Room, Trumbull Town Hall

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chairman Andrea Fonseca at 7:03pm.

Attendance:

Present:

Andrea Fonseca - Co-Chair
Jeannine Stauder - Co-Chair
Jonathan Tropp -Vice Chair Arrived at 7:30pm
Tara Figueroa
Lincoln Johnson
Dede Robinson Arrived at 7:30pm
Danny Wisneski
David Rosenberg
Martin Issac (Alternate) Departed at 7:30pm
Zdena Quinn (Alternate)

Also Present:

Jim Cordone, Town Attorney

Public Comment:

An opportunity was provided for comments from the public. No comments were made.

Correspondence:

Co-Chair Jeannine Stauder read an email from Tara Figueroa addressed to the Task Force for a need to have a greater cultural sensitivity at the meetings. On the September 21st a racial joke was referenced by the presenter, Mr. Gardiner, when he was telling a story prior to the start of the EDIT meeting. There was no further discussion regarding the correspondence, but the group agreed that it may be revisited at a future date.

Old Business:

Approval of Minutes: September 21, 2021

Corrections: Mr. Rosenberg was present at the meeting, but his name was not in the minutes.

Mr. Gardiner agreed to incorporate handouts and send to all taskforce members.

MOTION to approve minutes with corrections made by Ms. Figueroa, seconded by Mr. Wisneski, motion carried by unanimous vote. The two alternate members, Mr. Isaac and Ms. Quinn voted as two members were not in attendance at the time of the vote.

Approval of Minutes: January 21, 2021

MOTION to approve minutes made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Figueroa, all three members present at the January 21, 2021, meeting voted to approve, while the six members there were not present at the meeting abstained from the vote. Motion carried 3 yes, 0 no, 6 abstain.

Art/Logo Competition:

A competition to decide the logo for EDIT was launched on February 1, 2021. The idea was for the public to share pieces of art that will show “**what equity/diversity means to you**” . All four members that were present during the January meeting agreed that a mechanism to decide the winner should be created . The original idea was to have a rotating logo that would be based on all the seasons.

Ms. Figueroa proposed that the members could discuss and decide on the logo submissions at the next meeting.

Interviews

Mr. Wisneski mentioned that the interviews took place nine months ago and these should be revisited as it has been so long. Various group members discussed that it is important not to repeat what was previously completed but expound on what each town entity had previously stated during original interview.

Mr. Isaac mentioned that it is important to hear the concerns of the community before revisiting the interviews.

Ms. Figueroa stated that there were a series of three sets of questions and that it is important to remember that the public is the main stakeholder.

Mr. Lincoln had a concern that when trying to obtain information from different town entities through interviews it is important to have unbiased answers so town entities should not view questions in advance.

Ms. Quinn mentioned that the topic of the public meetings should ask two questions: “ where do you feel included/ what do you feel excluded.” Various members of the group believed that this would be a good starting point to initiate the conversation.

Co-Chair Ms. Fonseca mentioned to have a public hearing separate from the general meetings. She discussed that the venue can be moved to accommodate the public to have an open forum with no debate. Co-Chair Ms. Stauder mentioned that that Community Room in the Library is available for use for a public meeting.

Calendar for 2022

It was agreed that meetings will be scheduled on the third Thursday of every month, not including holidays or special town days. Members agreed that meeting time shall be 7:30pm until the end of the year as to accommodate members’ work schedules.

New Business:

1. Mission – “To Make the Town of Trumbull a more Equitable, Diverse, Inclusive Community” is main mission of EDIT. All members adopted the mission statement.
2. Norms- EDIT will not adopt norms for their taskforce.

3. Communication : Co-Chair Ms. Fonseca asked Clerk if he was willing to take on role of Secretary and monitor the EDIT's public email. The Clerk has agreed to monitor EDIT group email and forward all emails to Ms. Fonseca and Ms. Stauder.
4. Future Presenters
All members will email a list of potential presenters for consideration by EDIT at the next meeting. Any cost or fees associated with a presentation would require approval by the Town Council and/or Board of Finance prior to scheduling a presenter.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm

Submitted by,
Christy Richard Hayes, Jr., Clerk