

**DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION COUNCIL
STEERING COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

**March 4, 2024, from 6 to 8 pm
Simsbury Public Library, Weatogue Room**

CALL TO ORDER: 6:02 pm

ROLL CALL

In attendance:

Rick Brush, Cheryl Cook, Nicole Kodak, Sara Batchelor, Meg Evans (virtual), Mary Margaret Girgenti, Devonna Hall, Rachel Hayes (virtual), Lloyd Huie (virtual), Alex Reger, Chris Carney (Library Liaison), Kevin Beal (BOS Liaison), Marc Nelson (Town Manager), Franklyn Barrueco (Town Manager Staff Liaison to DEI)

LIAISON UPDATES

1. Board of Selectmen Liaison
Kevin Beal updated that the budget process is continuing with Saturday BOS meeting.
2. Equity Council Liaison
Nicole shared that planning for DEIB week continues for first week in April and there is discussion about Columbus Day / Indigenous People's Day including student input, canvassing other towns and districts.
3. Library Liaison
Chris Carney, current Acting Head of Adult Services
Human Library with DEI Council 3/23/24
Other programming: quarterly events to highlight important convos in town
Culinary programming – Charlie Cart – induction oven/cooktop, fresh water
Chef Prosperi to test later in March. Vision is to bring regional chefs and cultural heritage through food series – soft launch summer/fall 2024.

UPDATE FROM CHAIRS

2.14.24 The BOS voted: Housing SC dissolved, and Housing Advisory Committee approved. 9 members representing key stakeholders. 1 seat allocated for DEI member with many touches to housing.

Reappointment Letters have been sent to members. Each needs to take oath with Town Clerk and sign Conflict of Interest form. Sara asked: could the clerk come to DEI meeting to get our oaths since there are so many? Marc will explore making that happen.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Review and approve of minutes: February 5, 2024
Carol Moved. MMG second. All in favor. Minutes approved.

2. Nominate DEI Member and alternate to Town Housing Advisory Committee
After discussion, Nicole moved to nominate Cheryl Cook as the DEI member on the Town Housing Advisory Committee and Rick Brush as the alternate. MMG second. All in favor.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Events

Jim Crow – 65 attended, 85 views on SCM Youtube. “Origin” film – all tickets allocated.
Human Library 3/23

Juneteenth 6/15 will happen with Avon, Canton, Farmington, Granby and Simsbury joining to host this celebration. Nicole shared how the event is taking shape.

2. Data

After discussion, Marc asked Data SC to send all key documents so he can read what’s happened to present. Kevin emphasized the value in longitudinal data. SC will send Data RFQ, data collected in small phase 1, and other important updates. The next Data SC meeting will be held March 18th from 6-8n pm in the Simsbury Public Library Wagner Room.

NEW BUSINESS - none

OLD BUSINESS - none

ADJOURNMENT 7:41

Rick move. MMG second. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, April 1, 6:00pm, Weatogue Room