



Diversity Council
Special Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 18th at 6:30pm
Hybrid - In-Person and Zoom Meeting
Bristol Public Library Meeting Room 3

Attendees:

Jaymie Bianca – Chair (Zoom), Council Members Marcus Patton (Zoom), David MacGregor Rackliffe, Jeffrey Israel (Zoom), and Sebastian Panioto – City Council Liaison

Absent: Council Members Alison Rae Willette and Mohammed Aziz

Guests: None

1. Call to Order: Jaymie Bianca called the meeting to order at 6:39 PM. A quorum was present at this meeting. Jaymie apologized for not being at the meeting in person due to some health issues.
2. Public Participation – There was no public participation
3. Current Business
 - a. Youth Coalition
Jaymie Bianca updated the Council that the Youth Coalition didn't meet during Ramadan as some members had duties for the holiday, which included fasting. She was also limited due to her own health issues and traveling. Plans for another Youth Coalition meeting are being made for April.

Both Bristol Eastern HS and Bristol Central HS are planning and holding Culture Days. Hailey Rosado, present on Zoom, is spearheading the day for Bristol Central.

Bristol Eastern High School Culture Day is Friday, April 28, 2023.

Bristol Central High School Cultural Day is Wednesday, May 17, 2023. Jaymie spoke about the in school and after school events being planned along with performances.



Hailey Rosado spoke about efforts to get students involved in the planning including a video she made with it broadcast at school and feedback she received from fellow students. Follow up on the food is needed but there are restaurants that have confirmed donating. Student participation is the main focus now.

City Council Liaison Sebastian Panioto thanked Hailey for her efforts. Council Member Marcus Patton advised he has an entertainer he will reach out to for the event. Hailey and Jaymie reviewed that during school would be student and faculty like a pep rally and after school will be the food and community involvement. David Rackliffe asked about an advisor for the event, and Hailey replied that she had chosen Jaymie. David also asked about the food donations and types.

b. Panel Series

Jaymie Bianca knows that Council Member Alison Willette was interested in doing something with FOCUS about Autism Acceptance Month. She has been posting great items on her own Facebook page and Jaymie wanted the Council to consider asking Alison about posting on the Council's Facebook and other social media pages sharing her story and other Autism Awareness related items as holding a panel on this subject in April is too close for planning at this date. If accepted, Alison's posts would be for the month of April. Discussion continued about the format and effectiveness of posting to social media and shareability. It was agreed that Jaymie should approach Alison and see if she would like to post as discussed.

Jaymie also broached holding a Pride Month panel in June with ideas for guests needed along with any ideas for topics, etc. There is time to plan and she needs the Council's feedback. Council Members Marcus Patton and David Rackliffe agreed this is a good panel idea. David suggested holding it later in the month due to graduations and holidays.

City Council Liaison Sebastian Panioto suggested holding the Panel Discussion after the June 27, 2023 Diversity Council Regular Meeting as had been done for the previous Panel Discussion. Discussion continued with ideas



for when and what time to hold the event. June 20, 2023 at 6:30pm was suggested.

David Rackliffe moved that a Pride Month Panel Discussion be held on June 20, 2023. The motion was seconded by Marcus Patton. It was clarified that June 20th would be a Special Meeting. All were in favor and the motion passed into the record. The June 27th meeting will be held as scheduled and the June 20th panel will start at 6:30pm. Recording Secretary Sharon Arsego will put in the calendar and room requests for the Panel Discussion.

4. New Business

a. New Member Suggestions

Jaymie Bianca opened discussion for new member suggestions for the four openings on the Council. Council Member Marcus Patton indicated he has a couple people he should have confirmed by the end of the week. Any possible new members should contact the Mayor's Office and a meeting will be set up for an interview and the onboarding process.

Council Member David Rackliffe asked if the Mayor's Office had been contacted for possible names. Jaymie said she will contact the mayor and his admin, Kirsten Girouard about this. City Council Liaison Sebastian Panioto encouraged having a full Council and assured those present that boards and councils needing members is common and not limited to the Diversity Council.

b. Upcoming Events

Jaymie Bianca shared the flyer of her Justice Dance Performance Project "Journeying Toward Hope" Zoom only event at 6pm on April 25, 2023. This project includes dance, music and poetry performed by Trinity College students as well as people recently released from prison. Jaymie stated she feels it would be a good fit with the work of the Diversity Council to attend and is an opportunity to see a different population in a new light.

Jaymie remains in contact with Joshua Medeiros, Superintendent of Parks, Rec, Youth and Community Services for the City of Bristol regarding the Juneteenth event coming up at the Carousel Museum. She will provide more updates as that event gets closer.



Council Member Jeffrey Israel mentioned the National Day of Prayer at the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church on May 4th at 5pm. Donation of non-perishable food items are being accepted for the Meals for Neighbors Program.

City Council Liaison Sebastian Panioto asked Jaymie to contact Joshua Medeiros about the Council's involvement in the First Cultural District Festival for Bristol on Saturday, June 10, 2023.

The Council was reminded of the Drug Prevention Week Park Takeover event on Thursday, May 11, 2023 from 5pm to 7pm. The goal is to encourage the youth from becoming involved with drugs. Drug Intake Day is also coming up with the Bristol Police accepting drugs and medications that need to be disposed of Saturday, April 22nd.

There were no other events discussed.

Jaymie wanted to share that she was nominated for the Hartford Yard Goats and Liberty Bank Community Kindness Hero award. She was advised it was in direct regards to her Diversity Council work and doesn't know who nominated her but thanked them and also thanked the Council for their contributions as well. She will be attending the April 19, 2023 game to receive a certificate and throw out the first pitch. The Council congratulated her on the award.

5. Adjournment

Jaymie called for a motion to adjourn. David Rackliffe made the motion which was seconded by Marcus Patton. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:18pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Arsego
Sr. Administrative Assistant