



**Diversity Council
Special Meeting**
Tuesday, February 28th, 2023 at 6pm
Zoom Meeting only

Attendees:

Jaymie Bianca - Chair, Council Members David MacGregor Rackliffe, Derek Jones, Alison Rae Willette, Jeffrey Israel, Sebastian Panioto - City Council Member

Absent: Council Members Desira Nichole Powell, Marcus Patton, Mohammad Aziz and Kelly Pacheco Houston

Guests: Kelsey Rivera, New England Edibles, LLC

1. Call to Order: Jaymie Bianca called the meeting to order at 6:05PM
2. Approval of January 24, 2023 Meeting and February 23, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes

Jaymie Bianca requested a motion to approve the minutes of both the January Regular Meeting and the February Special Meeting. There were no changes to the minutes. Derek Jones made the motion to accept the minutes which was seconded by David MacGregor. All were in favor and the minutes were received into record.

3. Public Participation

Kelsey Rivera introduced herself as the Social Equity Officer, Marketing Officer and Human Resources Officer with New England Edibles, LLC. They are a start up cannabis company in Connecticut, currently holding their provisional license and hoping to receive their final license soon. Jaymie explained she was provided a letter about the Social Equity plan for New England Edibles, LLC and she will email it to the Council for review ahead of, and discussion at, the next Council meeting.

There was no additional Public Participation.



4. Current Business

a. Vice-Chair Election

Jaymie advised that with the resignation of Reynardo Ortiz, the Council is required to elect a new Vice-Chair. She explained the duties of the role of Vice-Chair and called for a volunteer. Members that were present appreciated the opportunity and stated they're unable to commit at this time.

Sebastian suggested Jaymie speak with members not in attendance to gauge their interest in the position. Alison asked for more specific details on the Vice-Chair duties which Jaymie said she would provide. Jaymie called for a motion to table the Vice-Chair election for the March meeting. Derek made the motion which was seconded by Jeff and the motion passed without further discussion.

b. Youth Coalition

Jaymie provided an overview of the Youth Coalition meeting held as the Diversity Council's Special Meeting on February 23rd, 2023. She will resend the shared Google doc with the Youth Coalition expectations that were discussed at the Special Meeting. Derek asked Jaymie to reach out to Malia at Central High School for additional support there.

Sebastian asked what the student's expectations were. Jaymie replied they're looking for more connections within the community, networking, connecting with community leaders, and having adults to help with some larger plans that reach beyond the schools.

Derek encouraged the Council members to meet the Youth Coalition members in person for what they're doing and still want to see accomplished. Sebastian is encouraged that they want to be involved in person especially after the screen time increase due to the pandemic and the negative impacts on kids because of it.

Dave mentioned their high energy level and refreshing take on things, and thinks it would be important for the Youth Coalition to meet with the Mayor and City Council members. Jaymie and Dave expressed wanting to get St. Paul School and the Tech School involved in the Youth Coalition as well. The



Council agreed that the progress being made in the schools now will need to be sustained as the Youth Coalition students graduate.

c. Member Features

Jaymie thanked all the members for submitting their profiles for use on the Diversity Council's social media platforms. Sebastian's is the last one that will post. Jaymie has received very positive feedback that includes the public being more aware of the Diversity Council in general as well as the members individually. Jaymie would like to continue highlighting additional community leaders. Derek expressed it was good of Jaymie to keep pushing the envelope and getting the word out.

d. Bristol Hospital Follow Up

Jaymie advised the hospital didn't have a good February date and they are looking for a time for the Council and the Hospital's Diversity Committee to meet. Jaymie will let the Council know when she hears back from the hospital.

5. New Business

a. Upcoming events

Derek provided an update on the opportunity for the Council to volunteer at Agape House. The main item is to secure a Saturday morning when five to six members of the Council can be there. The church lets Agape use their kitchen for cooking, and food can also be made ahead and brought in. The Saturday start time would be around 8am or 9am. Dave is aware that Agape is getting help to redo their kitchen, and they also have food brought in from area establishments. Jaymie will send an email to the Council asking what Saturdays in March to confirm availability.

Jeff Israel mentioned a meeting of the Bristol Interfaith Coalition on Thursday March 2nd to plan for the National Day of Prayer in April. Jeff will bring an update to the Council when it is available.

b. April Meeting Discussion

Jaymie won't be able to attend the April 25th meeting which she hadn't anticipated when the yearly calendar was agreed on. She will be leading an event



with The Justice Dance Performance Project based in Hartford, CT that evening. The new Vice-Chair will hopefully be elected by then and would be called on to lead the April meeting.

6. Adjournment

Jaymie called for a motion to adjourn. Dave made the motion which was seconded by Jeff. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 6:27pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Arsego
Sr. Administrative Assistant

Note: To view this virtual only meeting and the panel discussion that followed, please click on the link below and use the provided password to access the recording. This recording will be available for 45 days.

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