



**Diversity Council**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
Tuesday, May 23rd, 2023 at 6:30pm  
**Hybrid - In-Person and Zoom Meeting**  
Bristol Public Library Meeting Room 3

**Attendees:**

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

**Absent:** Council Members Alison Rae Willette and Mohammed Aziz

**Guests:** David Oakes, Public Works Facilities Manager for the City of Bristol

1. Call to Order: Jaymie Bianca called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM. A quorum was not yet present and the Council was waiting on a final member to arrive and complete the quorum to allow for voting.
2. Approval of March Regular Meeting and April Special Meeting Minutes  
Jaymie conferred with the Council and Recording Secretary to move Approving the Minutes to later in the meeting to vote when the quorum is present. It was agreed that if no quorum was present by Adjournment, voting on these minutes would be moved to the June meeting agenda.
3. Public Participation  
David Oakes, Public Works Facilities Manager for the City of Bristol, spoke about a Community Resilience Workshop to be held June 21, 2023 from 9:00am to 12:00pm. This workshop is designed to highlight the city's strengths and areas of improvement for community response to emergency situations like extreme weather, and emergency preparedness. The goal for this workshop is to include members of the community in the process of improving responses in times of need. David would like at least one member from the Diversity Council to be present at this workshop. Discussion continued with regards to other city clubs and organizations that David is approaching for their involvement and/or input.

*Note: Council Member Marcus Patton arrived at 6:44pm which completed the quorum needed for voting at this meeting.*



David also provided a Sustainability Update with another summer session available, three, (2) hour workshops. The points earned so far go towards the Equity Training Requirements within Sustainable CT. Further discussion included the rating levels within the Sustainable CT program. David's goal is to exceed the city's existing silver rating (which is 500 points and we are currently at 485). The new gold level of 750 points is David's goal and he is currently working with city departments to earn that.

There was no additional public participation.

At this time, with a quorum now present, Jaymie called for the approval of March Regular Meeting and April Special Meeting Minutes.

March minutes: David MacGregor Rackliffe made the motion to accept the meeting minutes. Marcus Patton seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes passed into the record.

April minutes: Marcus Patton made the motion to accept the meeting minutes. David MacGregor Rackliffe second the motion. All were in favor and the minutes passed into the record.

#### 4. Current Business

##### a. Youth Coalition

Jaymie provided an update on the two Bristol high school's cultural days held since the last meeting. Bristol Eastern High School held their event on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Bristol Central High School held their event on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Cultural foods were donated, students prepared boards with various cultural notes and information presented on them, and the Youth Coalition leaders used creative ways to draw interest and participation. Jaymie said she is very proud of the students and the work they did for both events.

Jaymie reported two new Youth Coalition applications have been received citing that is on track for the responses received this time last year. There was discussion about extending the application deadline past June 13<sup>th</sup> due to when they came in last year. There was discussion about most members being seniors this year and therefore graduating out of the program.



b. June Panel

Jaymie would like to have three to four panelists and is accepting suggestions of who to invite. The Pride Month Panel Discussion is scheduled for June 20, 2023 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm, Bristol Public Library, Room #3. Discussion included the goal of the event which Jaymie said would be similar to the Black History Month panel where people's experiences and areas of improvement within the community were highlighted. Council Member Marcus Patton will be reaching out to contacts within the ESPN campus who may live outside Bristol, but who work and socialize here. Their involvement could lead to a broad picture approach to use within Bristol.

Bristol resident Jill Wilson asked about the format of the panel discussion. Jaymie would also like to include a high school student on the panel like for Black History month. David liked the format of the discussion that was held for that panel and would like to see that for the June panel as well. Jaymie will work on a flyer for advertising the event and she was encouraged to send the information through to the city's All Heart Events to be listed there.

c. Business/Community Features

Jaymie presented this opportunity as an extension of having featured Council members on their social media platforms. This would be businesses or business owners who are active in diversity and inclusion work in the community. The format of the posts would be a photo and information on the business/business owner. City Council Liaison Sebastian Panioto suggested Bakery on Maple and Council Member Marcus Patton suggested the new Jamaican restaurant in town. Discussion continued about the feature potentially building momentum and leading to awards they can present for their work.

d. Member Recruitment

Jaymie said that members are still needed to fill vacant posts. Council Member Marcus Patton asked if there is a minimum age limit for members. Discussion including possibly adding a couple of the Youth Coalition members to the Council as regular members while still maintaining the numbers within the Youth Coalition itself. Recording Secretary Sharon Arsego will ask the City Clerk's office regarding the age limit to clarify. Points discussed included keeping the panel balanced in regards to party affiliation,



adjusting the Charter regarding membership if needed, and the vetting of new members being done through the mayor's office.

## 5. New Business

### a. Upcoming Events

Jaymie referenced a Know Your Neighbor panel event previously held at Prospect United Methodist Church.

Sebastian mentioned the Cultural District event at the Federal Hill Green on June 10<sup>th</sup>

David mentioned the Farmers Market opening Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. It will be held every Saturday through October.

Marcus mentioned the Rockwell Music Series which starts in June.

David also mentioned the Rockwell Park Festival August 19<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 6pm

Any additional events can be sent to Jaymie for her to post on social media and to notify the Council

There were no further events shared.

## 6. Adjournment

Jaymie requested a motion to adjourn. David MacGregor Rackliffe made the motion which was seconded by Marcus Patton. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 7:27pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Arsego  
Sr. Administrative Assistant