



**Diversity Council
Regular Meeting**

Tuesday, June 27, 2023 at 6:30pm

Hybrid - In-Person and Zoom Meeting

Bristol Public Library Meeting Room 3

Attendees:

Jaymie Bianca – Chair (Zoom), Council Members David MacGregor Rackliffe, Alison Rae Willette (Zoom), and Sebastian Panioto – City Council Liaison

Absent: Council Member Jeffrey Israel and Marcus Patton

Guests: None

1. Call to Order

Jaymie Bianca called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM. There was a quorum.

2. Approval of May Regular Meeting and June Special Meeting Minutes

Jaymie called for a motion to approve the minutes from the May Regular Meeting Minutes and the June Special Meeting Minutes. Council Member David MacGregor Rackliffe put the motion forward and it was seconded by Jaymie. All were in favor and the Minutes were approved into the record.

3. Public Participation

There was no Public Participation.

4. Current Business

a. Panel Series

Jaymie Bianca started the follow up on the Pride Month Panel Series held Tuesday, July 20, 2023. She felt it went well, that it was positive and insightful. She especially enjoyed the conversation and what she learned from it. Member David MacGregor Rackliffe agreed and that the panel presented the information well. He did express the need to better promote the panel discussions to better improve attendance. The Council discussed social media options as well as flyers and the safe administration of the social media to ensure welcoming and productive commenting and conversation. It was also suggested to use the Youth Coalition to advertise the panels to their peers.

City of Bristol

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Jaymie requested ideas for the next panel's topic and timing. Member David MacGregor Rackliffe felt the summertime would present scheduling difficulties and spoke in favor of holding it in October. He also encouraged a faith panel with representatives from all faiths present in Bristol. Jaymie believes there are already well-established contacts that can be reached out to help plan this event. City Council Liaison Sebastian Panioto suggested that with time to plan the Council could keep it open if anything should come up in the meantime.

5. New Business

a. Council Age Limit

Jaymie Bianca advised that the Bristol Town Clerk, Erica Cabiya, was asked and replied that younger members could be on the Council providing they understand the guidelines and uphold the mission of the Council as well as the attendance requirements. City Council Liaison Sebastian Panioto broached the subject of balanced party affiliation when adding new Council members. Recording Secretary Sharon Arsego will reach back to the Town Clerk for council bylaws and party affiliation requirements. Discussion continued around requirements for members being registered voters as well.

Jaymie and the Council are still looking for new members in general and welcomes any suggestions for the Council to put names forward to the Office of the Mayor for review.

b. Upcoming Events

Bristol Blues Autism Acceptance Night Wednesday June 28th

West End Association Day August 19th

There was discussion of the Council having a presence at this event, possibly wearing their Council shorts and speaking to people throughout the crowd and the event.

Sandy Kamen spoke to the council about possibly sharing a table with the BEST Committee at this event. She will check with Mike Tingley who is the City's BEST Coordinator with Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services.

Brian's Angel's Benefit Concert July 22nd

To be held at Crystal Bees from 6pm to 11pm

Council Member Alison Rae Willette asked about having a presence at the Bristol Farmer's Market. It was also suggested to possibly recruit new members there. Member



David MacGregor Rackliffe is a Rotarian that works the Farmer's Market. He will contact Jim Albert from Rotary to see about putting the Council in to share their table where they're also recruiting members. Sandy Kamens also suggested possibly sharing or using the space that BEST has as well and she will check into that.

Alison also asked about the Vice Chair opening for the Council and would like to be considered for it. Jaymie said this would be put on the July 2023 Regular Meeting Agenda where Alison could make a brief presentation on why she would like the position and then the Council would vote on it.

6. Adjournment

Jaymie made the motion to adjourn which David seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 7:08pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Arsego
Sr. Administrative Assistant