



Diversity Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 24th, 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 (Zoom), Alison Rae Willette, Mohammad Aziz (Zoom), Jeffrey Israel, Kelly Pacheco Houston, Derek Jones and Sebastian Panioto - City Council Member

Absent: Council Members Reynardo Ortiz and Desira Nichole Powell

Guests: Michael Tingley and David Oakes - City of Bristol Staff

1. Call to Order: Jaymie Bianca called the meeting to order at 6:31pm
2. Approval of December Meeting Minutes:
 - Jeffrey Israel motioned for the minutes to be accepted. David Rackliffe seconded and the minutes were approved into the record.
3. Public Participation:
 - Michael Tingley, Bristol Eliminating Substance Abuse Together (BEST) Project Coordinator for the City of Bristol introduced himself and his desire to work with the Diversity Council as it relates to his work and that diversity needs to be part of the conversation.
 - David Oakes, Public Works Facilities Manager for the City of Bristol spoke as the lead contact person for the Sustainable CT efforts for Bristol. The Sustainable CT Training is hosting Diversity, Equity and Inclusion workshops again and the email was sent to the Diversity Council email for distribution. Enrollment is open and trainings are seasonal, three hours a day for three days each session. David expressed that the workshops are great for both personal and professional growth and awareness.

There was no additional Public Participation.



4. Current Business:

a. Youth Coalition

- Jaymie Bianca reported that the Coalition is coming together slowly but steadily. She reported that Bristol Eastern High School's Diversity Club is holding a Culture Day Friday, April 28th, 2023. The day includes music, dance, and cultural awareness booths the last two periods of the school day with foods available after school hours. This event will be replicated at Bristol Central and the BAIMS School, both with Coalition Members.
- Jaymie also reported on the draft of expectations for the Youth Coalition that includes attendance at the Diversity Council meetings and the Panel Discussion scheduled for February 28th, 2023. Kelly Pacheco Houston expressed concern about the Youth Coalition members not being known to them and a timeline and the expectations to be reviewed by the Diversity Council to provide input. Jaymie suggested finding dates and times to encourage better attendance for the youth at the Regular Meetings and will make a shared Google doc with the expectations for the Council to work from.

b. Member Features

- Jaymie Bianca reported that the Diversity Council member profiles have been doing well on Facebook (Bristol CT Diversity Council page)..
- Kelly Pacheco Houston suggested sharing the profiles to the Bristol Talks Facebook page. That page's Administrator, Eric, offered his help with this. It was advised that he be contacted so he knows the posts are being submitted or are pending approval for timeliness. Jaymie advised there is an Instagram page connected to the Council's Facebook page. Ali Willette strongly suggested using TikTok to appeal to teenagers and offered to set it up.

David Rackliffe excused himself from the meeting at 7:00PM.



c. Panel Series

- Jaymie reported that Ali Thomas is confirmed for the Panel Discussion as suggested at the previous Council meeting. The Panel Discussion is scheduled to follow the February 28th Regular Council meeting. The meeting will run from 6:00pm to 6:30pm with only agenda items being discussed and the Panel Discussion will run from 6:30pm to 8:00pm in the same meeting room.
- Additional panelists include Council members Derek Jones and Kelly Pacheco Houston. The President of the Bristol NAACP will be invited along with a local high school student, Lenay Louis.
- Flyers for the Panel Discussion will be drafted and sent out for distribution. David Rackliffe will assist with flyer creation and the use of the Canva Advertising app was suggested with shared viewing for the Council to review it. Derek Jones suggested distribution on Bristol Talks. The City's All Heart Events site and the City's electronic signs are other platforms for awareness.

5. New Business:

d. Budget Request

- Jaymie Bianca reported the scope of the budget request from the city was less detailed than originally expected. After discussion with David Rackliffe and Jodi McGrane. from the Comptroller's Office, a budget of \$2,000 was submitted by the January 13, 2023 deadline. It was noted that the festival planned for 2024 would come from this budget.

e. Sustainable CT Training

- Jaymie added to David Oakes comments on the training sessions which are open to all Bristol residents. City Council Member Sebastian Panioto handed out the current session details. The city earns credits and grants based on participation and completion. An example is a local business that upgraded to energy efficient LED Lights. It was suggested the training be posted to the Diversity Council's Facebook page and other social media platforms.



Additional Items: Jaymie Bianca noted the following items arose after the meeting's agenda had been finalized.

- f. Diversity Council Email Box
 - Jaymie advised that the City's IT will be contacted because of issues accessing the email. Replies will be delayed until access is provided.
- g. Council Member Reynardo Ortiz resigned effective today. There are now two Council openings.
- h. Bristol Hospital wants to partner with the Diversity Council for their own Diversity Panel/Council. A meeting needs to be scheduled. Council Members Jaymie Bianca, Derek Jones, Kelly Pacheco Houston, and Marcus Patton asked to be in attendance. Jaymie confirmed as a quorum this would require an Agenda and be a Special Meeting of the Council. Meeting date and time to be determined.
- i. Upcoming Events include the following:
 - Plainville Public Library guest speaker January 26th sponsored by Plainville's Anti-Racism Task Force
 - Temple Sinai will have a Jewish jazz musical guest for a portion of their services on January 27th. The event can be attended both in person and on Zoom.
 - Sunday, January 29th is National Holocaust Remembrance Day
 - An Interfaith Zoom event will be held on January 31st
 - Derek Jones expressed the need for volunteers at outreach shelters and will speak with Agape House for a date and time for the Council to volunteer together.

6. Adjournment:

- Jaymie requested a motion to adjourn. Derek Jones made the motion which was seconded by Kelly Pacheco Houston and the motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Respectively submitted,
Sharon Arsego
Recording Secretary

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