



Diversity Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at 6:30pm
Hybrid - In-Person and Zoom Meeting
Bristol Public Library Meeting Room 3

Attendees:

Jaymie Bianca – Chair, Council Members Marcus Patton and Alison Rae Willette, and Sebastian Panioto – City Council Liaison (Zoom)

Absent: Council Members David MacGregor Rackliffe and Jeffrey Israel

1. Call to Order

Council Chair Bianca called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM. A quorum was present.

2. Approval of June 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Council Member Patton put forward the motion to approve the meeting Minutes from June 27, 2023. The motion was seconded by Council Member Willette. There was no further discussion, all were in favor of accepting the Minutes, and they were accepted into the record.

3. Public Participation

There was no Public Participation

4. Current Business

a. Vice Chair Position

Council Chair Bianca asked the Council about hearing Council Member Willette's presentation to be accepted as the Committee's Vice Chair at this meeting, or to wait until additional members are present. The Council agreed to hear the presentation and vote during the meeting.

Council Member Willette advised that she is proud to be a member of the Diversity Council and making a difference here and in other aspects of her life that align with the Council's goals. She has been active in the Autism Community since she was ten years old, and continues to be an advocate of all persons. Being

the Diversity Council's Vice Chair would allow her to continue with her advocacy within this forum.

City of Bristol

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There were no additional nominations. The Chair called for a vote. All were in favor and Council Member Willette was voted in as the Diversity Council's new Vice Chair. Vice Chair Willette's speech will be shared at the next meeting where additional and new members are expected to be in attendance.

b. Panel Series

Council Chair Bianca polled the Council to set a date for the previously approved Religious Diversity Panel in October 2023. Discussion was held regarding the dates and times for the panel. It was agreed that Council Chair Bianca would provide potential dates and times to hold the panel and work with the Recording Secretary to schedule the room as needed. Panelists will be confirmed. Council Chair Bianca will reach out to the Interfaith Coalition and Council Members were encouraged to send her contact details of panelist suggestions she could reach out to.

c. Youth Coalition

Council Chair Bianca reported that completed applications are low this year. One idea to capture more interest is to move the application end date to January 2024. Another is to open the applications up to kids younger than high school age. Council Member Patton agreed with the idea of moving the application date into January 2024, and also suggested the Committee redevelop the approach to the youth to obtain applications. He also gave a brief overview of the Youth Coalition. Further discussion included the Youth Coalition expectations like meeting attendance including how to better reach out to youth including social media outlets like Tik Tok.

d. Farmers Market

The Diversity Council is scheduled to be at the Farmers Market for Saturday, September 9th from 10am to 1pm. Council Chair Bianca went August 19th and there was good traffic at the Diversity Council table.

5. New Business

a. New Council Members

Council Chair Bianca advised the Council that several new Council Members will be present at the September 26th, 2023 meeting. She has been in contact with Mayor Caggiano and City Council Liaison Panioto in regards to the new members. Council Member Patton advised that he has additional Council Member candidates that he will bring to the Chair and the Mayor for consideration.



b. Resource List

Council Chair Bianca revisited the Resource List the Council had started last year. This list is meant to include organizations in Bristol that promote and value diversity. Her goal is to make this a published guide for use and to share out. She will send the current list to the Council Members for additions and edits.

c. Upcoming Events

DK Movement 5K Road Race on August 26th to benefit not for profits like Agape House in Bristol

Art Show Auction (for people with physical and intellectual disabilities) Tentative date of October 15th

German Festival on August 25th and 26th at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Bristol

Council Chair Bianca will ask Jack Ferraro about the Council having a booth at the Mum Festival September 22nd, 23rd and 24th

Additional discussion was held regarding opportunities for the Council to partner with Bristol businesses owned and operated by people of color to help them network and grow within the community.

6. Adjournment

The Motion to Adjourn was made by Council Vice Chair Willette and was seconded by Council Member Patton. There were no objections and the meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Arsego
Sr. Administrative Assistant