

Sharon Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee ("DEIC")

Meeting Minutes

September 23rd, 2021

Attendance

Kiana Pierre-Louis - chair, present
Dru Ledbetter - vice chair, present (joined after roll call)
Wendy Alexis-Janvier - present
Bill Kondrath - present
Marjorie Mitlin - present
Zainab Mohammed - present
Lajos Kamocsay - present
Stephen Coffee - SPD Liaison, not present
Tanya Lewis - School Committee Liaison, present
Hanna Switekowski - Select Board Liaison, present

The meeting was conducted virtually over Zoom in accordance with Governor Baker's June 16th 2021 executive action extending certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the state of emergency.

The meeting opened at 7:00pm with a welcome from Chair Kiana Pierre-Louis and an attendance roll call. Dru Ledbetter joined the meeting after the roll call.

Recognition of Holidays

The committee recognized Hispanic Heritage Month, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot and National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

Kiana Pierre-Louis asked for a motion to approve the minutes taken by Bill Kondrath for the August 19th, 2021 DEIC meeting. Lajos Kamocsay moved, Marjorie Mitlin seconded. The minutes were approved 6-0 (Kiana Pierre-Louis, Wendy Alexis-Janvier, Bill Kondrath, Lajos Kamocsay, Marjorie Mitlin, Zainab Mohammed voted YES, Dru Ledbetter did not vote).

Email correspondence

Kiana Pierre-Louis provided a summary of correspondence received by the committee. The emails regarded the police chief search and the Girl Scout presentation.

The committee discussed that most members are still having issues receiving email correspondence. It was noted that the Town's IT department has thus far been unable to find a solution to the issue. The committee discussed that a possible solution would be to give all committee members townofsharon.net email addresses.

Keeping abreast of DEI events in Town

It was noted that the members of the committee missed the recent Sharon Celebrates Diversity bench dedication event. While the event was announced at a past DEIC meeting, the committee agreed that a better system would be necessary to ensure that information about events is easily available. It was agreed that the best solution would be a calendar of community events posted on the Town's website.

Diversity, equity and inclusion training updates

Kiana Pierre-Louis reported that, due to scheduling conflicts around the Town employee diversity training, Town Administrator Fred Turkington came to an agreement with The Greater Us to modify the training contract. The Greater Us will deliver the Strategic Planning training to the DEIC, but the Town employee training will be conducted by DEIC Chair Kiana Pierre-Louis and member Bill Kondrath.

Girl Scouts - Silver Award

Girl Scouts Lila Mandel and Sophie Foulger described their project ideas for the Silver Award. Their project would display our Town's diversity. Several members of the committee thanked the Girl Scouts for choosing diversity as a topic and provided some ideas about how best to implement their project.

Advisory opinion to Select Board regarding Social Media Policy

Kiana Pierre-Louis shared an advisory memo drafted by Marjorie Mitlin that encourages the Select Board to create a Social Media Policy for Town officials and employees. Some minor edits were suggested by the committee, which will be implemented before the memo is sent to the Select Board.

Proposed interview questions for Chief of Police Search

Kiana Pierre-Louis shared a draft document with a list of questions collected from committee members to be included in the Police Chief interview process by the Select Board. A few additional questions were added by committee members during the discussion. The committee asked Kiana Pierre-Louis to make final edits to the questions after which the document will be sent to the Select Board.

Announcements

Sharon Day 2021 will take place at Veterans' Memorial Park Beach on Sunday, October 3rd noon-5:00pm. Fireworks at the same location will take place on Saturday, October 2nd at 7:00pm.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:10pm.