



**Diversity Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 27th, 2022 at 6:30pm
Zoom Meeting**

1. Call to Order: Jaymie Bianca called the meeting to order at 6:33pm
2. Approval of October Meeting Minutes:
 - David Rackliffe motioned to approve the minutes of the October meeting, Rey Ortiz, Jr. seconded and the minutes passed.
3. Public Participation
 - None
4. Current Business
 - a. 2023 Meeting Calendar

All members had reviewed the proposed 2023 Meeting Calendar. David Rackliffe mentioned that the December 26th meeting the day after the holiday might be tough for folks to make. It was agreed that the December meeting date could be revisited for the logistics as it got closer to the date.

- David Rackliffe motioned to approve the proposed calendar. Kelly Pacheco Houston seconded and the calendar was accepted into record. Jaymie Bianca will submit it to the Town Clerk for publication.

b. Youth Coalition

Discussion around the Youth Coalition's involvement in and with the Diversity Council included their commitment levels, their understanding of the role and expectations for it, and the goal to have their members at the January 2023 Diversity Council meeting.

- Jaymie Bianca confirmed that the Youth Coalition has scheduled meetings and the main goal is to establish the relationships.
- Members emphasized the role of the various school's guidance counselors in supporting this initiative among the students and The Rotary was mentioned as an ally as well.



- Members also suggested the Youth Coalition expectations be in writing with the student's signing. The goal being that student involvement be consistent.

c. Member Features

Jaymie Bianca is collecting Diversity Council member bios to feature on Facebook starting the first week of January 2023 as a possible Friday Feature item.

- These bios with a photo and information about what each member does within the city to raise community awareness about who the Council members are and hopefully make connections and build a community base.

d. Panel Series

A panel for Black History Month in February has been previously discussed.

- Jaymie Bianca suggested Alexandra Thomas, a former Bristol resident who is getting her PH.D. from Yale, as a panel candidate and contact for the Council. Alexandra is an artist and reflects on art and African American heritage. The Council agreed to invite Alexandra to be on the panel.
- Discussion about an event on January 18th, 2023 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day prompted Council members involvement if they're available and Jaymie will invite Alexandra to that as well.
- Sebastian Panioto suggested securing a time and location for the next Panel Series with additional notification going out to the public. David Rackliffe feels the panel discussion allows for a different dynamic and discussion opportunities. Rey Ortiz, Jr. Suggested bringing back former panelists to what would now be a larger audience. The NAACP on the panel was also encouraged. Derek Jones suggested picking a date and time.



- There was discussion about holding the panel event the night of the Council's regular meeting Tuesday, February 28th, keeping the agenda short and not rushing the panel. David Rackliffe motioned for February 28th, 2023 for the regular council meeting to be held from 6:00pm to 6:30pm and the panel series will follow. Derek Jones seconded and the motion was passed.
- The Youth Coalition will be asked to produce the Panel Series flyers.

5. New Business

a. January Special Meeting Discussion

Jaymie Bianca revisited the idea of having a special meeting to discuss sub-committees and possibly rotating sub-committees with members from the Council on them.

- Discussion included using current community groups and liaisons for updates and information and limiting subcommittee members to existing Diversity Council members.
- Kelly Houston suggested waiting until certain events or circumstances arose that required a subcommittee be formed. Derek Jones supported this idea adding that this would be more robust and efficient rather than having subcommittees made up before they're needed.
- The original suggestion to involve members of the public as liaisons had been made and it was agreed that would be tabled at this time.
- Panel Discussion flyers should be completed by January 26th. David Rackliffe suggested a subcommittee for the Panel event. Kelly, Derek, David and Jaymie agreed to be on the Panel Discussion subcommittee.
- The Committee agreed no special meeting before the Panel event. The late February date provides time for preparation.



Additional item:

b. 2023-2024 Budgets are Due

This came in after the agenda was created. Comptrollers needs the Council's budget submitted by Friday January 13th, 2023.

- Expectations of costs for future events need to be considered. Derek Jones suggested an itemized list of necessary items and their pricing for a projection.
- David Rackliffe mentioned the 2024 Cultural Festival would be in this budget. A budget subcommittee was suggested as well as a conversation with the Mayor to gauge support for the festival as a positive item for the City.
- Jaymie will draft a shareable budget document for the Council to review. Deadline for the draft is January 2nd.

6. Adjournment

- Jaymie requested a motion to adjourn. Kelly Houston made the motion which was seconded by David Rackcliffe and the motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:29pm

Respectively submitted,
Sharon Arsego
Recording Secretary