

Diversity Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at 6:30pm

Meeting Room 1-2, City Hall, 111 N. Main Street & on Zoom

Present: Interim Chair Marcus Patton, Council Members Anthony Lopes, Sandy Kamens, Jeff Israel, David Rackliffe, and Carolyn Palmquist

Absent: Council Member Danny Palmquist

Guests: None

I. Call to Order

The Interim Chair called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

II. Council Attendance

The Council took attendance. All members were present and there was a quorum.

III. Public Participation

There was no Public Participation.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. Meeting Minutes from February 24, 2026

The Interim Chair called for a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from February 24, 2026. Council Member Israel made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Council Member Kamens. There were no changes or updates noted. All were in favor and the Minutes were accepted into the record.

The Interim Chair referred to the invitation he accepted to represent the Diversity Council in a live interview with The Bristol Edition. The interview was designed to create more awareness about the Council, its mission, and that new members are welcome.

V. Current Business

a. Mantel Clock Canvas Donation

Interim Chair Patton provided an update to the Council after speaking separately with both Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu and The New England Clock and Watch Museum regarding a possible home for the Mantel Clock Canvas. Both the mayor and the

museum expressed an interest in housing the piece. Discussion followed, including exploring ideas of either location hosting the display, and the possibility of them co-hosting it, with the museum using it during special events.

Discussion concluded, and Council Member Rackliffe put forth the following motion:

Motion to donate the Mantel Clock Canvas mosaic to City Hall with a request that it be made available to organizations through the course of the year when the mosaic would be on display at their special events.

The motion was seconded by Council Member Kamens. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion was accepted into the record.

b. “Words Matter” Event Update

Format Structure
Food and Beverage
Promotion

Interim Chair Patton reminded the Council that this is an event, not a meeting, so there can be no Diversity Council discussions or voting held during that time. The Council was advised to take note of any topics or items from this event and bring them to the next scheduled Diversity Council meeting for discussion then.

Council Member Rackliffe updated the Council on pre-planning meetings held with the planning committee and the guest panelists. The format will be a one hour panel discussion followed by guest participation. The panelist will be provided with questions ahead of the event to at their request to help with preparation.

Discussion followed with a focus on the specific topics of, and panelist questions about communication, including generational gaps and the use and impact of technology versus in person conversations. Based on their conversation, the Council also agreed to entertain a follow up to the “Words Matter” event that is mainly focused on communication styles across diverse populations. Council Member Palmquist suggested the follow up event include a sign language interpreter.

Further discussion followed including the event timeline, the provision of refreshments, and event marketing, both what has been completed and what is forthcoming.

c. Cash Mob Rollout: Bristol Scoops

Visit and setup

Bristol Scoops was voted in as the next Cash Mob location, receiving nearly 50% of the votes from the Cash Mob post on Bristol Talks. Council Members Kamens and Israel will connect with the Interim Chair to visit Bristol Scoops together to help prepare for Cash Mob day.

VI. New Business

a. West End Association/Rockwell Festival

Diversity Council Options

The Interim Chair shared new information with the Council regarding a list of ideas and contacts compiled by the Council's Recording Secretary and the Mayor's Office. The Council Members were encouraged to consider the information that was shared and bring their ideas to the next meeting.

b. Vice Chair Nominees

The Interim Chair presented the need for the Council to elect a Vice Chair to assist with Council leadership. He emphasized that all the current members have the experience needed to fill the role and can also be filled by a new member when they join. Nominations and voting will take place at a future meeting.

c. Council Roundtable News and Notes

Council Member Kamens shared that a movie is being made about her friend who is an artist and a writer. She comes from a diverse background and feels she might be a good guest for the Council to have at a future event.

The Interim Chair shared his experience attending Melina Floyd's Black History Month event.

Council Member Israel mentioned a series he discovered on YouTube, Black and Jewish America in Interwoven History, which he recommended to the Council.

IX. Adjournment

The Interim Chair called for a motion to adjourn. Council Member Rackliffe made the motion which was seconded by Council Member Lopes. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:35pm

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Arsego

Recording Secretary

Unapproved