



Diversity Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 6:30pm
Hybrid - In-Person and Zoom Meeting
Bristol Public Library Meeting Room 3

Attendees:

Jaymie Bianca – Chair, Alison Rae Willette – Vice Chair, Council Members Marcus Patton, Sandra Kamens, Jordan Lopez, Olivia Chapdelaine (Zoom), David MacGregor Rackliffe (Zoom), and Anthony “Tony” Lopes

Absent: Council Member Jeffrey Israel and Sebastian Panioto – City Council Liaison

Guests:

1. Call to Order

Council Chair Bianca called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM. A quorum was present.

2. Approval of September 26, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
Approval of October 24, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes

Council Chair Bianca called for a motion to approve both the Minutes from the September 26, 2023 Regular Meeting and the October 24, 2023 Special Meeting. Council Member Patton put the motion forward and it was seconded by Council Member Kamens. All were in favor and the minutes were accepted into the record.

3. Public Participation

There was no Public Participation.

4. Current Business

a. Panel Series Overview

Council Chair Bianca provided feedback on the October 2023 Special Meeting Panel discussion. There were no further comments by Council Members.

Council Chair Bianca asked for suggestions about the next panel discussion topic for February 2024. Council Member Patton suggested a Chief’s Day which would be comprised of Police, Fire, etc. chiefs speaking to the daily work in their field. This was conducted at ESPN and the participants welcomed the opportunity. Council Member

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Chapdelaine suggested a youth series, such as youth experiences with racial injustice and within the LGBTQ+ community. She further explained the need for a stronger and better way for youth to communicate with the Board of Ed regarding issues they're having in school. Discussion continued with topic options. No votes were taken on the panel discussion topic at this time.

b. Youth Coalition/Book Club

Council Chair Bianca revisited the Youth Coalition and Book Club idea that had been discussed in a previous meeting. Discussion continued regarding how many remaining Youth Coalition members remain and expanding the reach to other schools in Bristol.

The Book club idea is for the youth, both in the Youth Coalition and not, to choose books, articles or stories highlighting social diversity and equity and then holding a discussion about it. Council Member Patton expressed a desire to first strengthen the Youth Coalition and then later implementing the Book Club as part of it.

The Panel Discussion topic will be voted on at next month's meeting. The idea of it being based on a youth focus could be used as a way to move the Youth Coalition involvement forward and more into the Diversity Council realm.

c. Resource List

Council Chair Bianca reviewed the Resource List that is in progress. The list is meant to be a list of available resources for those in need who may not otherwise know where to go for the information. Additions to the list were suggested and noted at the meeting. All Council Members have access to the shared doc to make additions outside the meeting as well.

Council Member Patton suggested a target date for the list to be launched. Discussion about the date continued with February 6, 2024 being the day the list would launch for use, keeping in mind this is an active document that can be updated as and when needed. Council Chair Bianca called for a motion to approve February 6, 2024 as the launch date. Council Vice Chair Willette made the motion which was seconded by Council Member Lopez. All were in favor and the motion passed into the record.

d. Holiday Events/Social Media

Council Chair Bianca stressed the importance of the Council's Facebook page and her having linked it to Instagram for added exposure. Bianca encouraged members to share holiday events that could be shared to these sites. Council Member Patton referenced a



shared calendar that had been previously used by the Council and that could be implemented again. It was also discussed as to best practice for Social Media administrators with answering inquiries.

5. New Business

a. Upcoming Events

Saturday, December 2nd – St. Paul's School 7PM Showcase of the Stars

Saturday, December 2nd – St. Matthew's 9am to 3:30pm Craft and Vendor Fair

Thursday, December 7th – St. Vincent De Paul's 5th Annual Hope to the Homeless
Comedy Show and Dinner -- \$25/per person
At Mulligan's Grill

b. December Meeting

Counsel Chair Bianca asked the Council Members about the December 2023 meeting scheduled for December 26th. It was suggested to hold the meeting on Zoom only to encourage attendance during the holiday season. Vice Chair Willette made the motion which was seconded by Council Member Lopes. All were in agreement and the motion was accepted into the record.

c. Meetings at City Hall

The 2024 meetings will resume at the renovated City Hall with the room(s) to be determined with the help of the Council's Recording Secretary based on availability. A draft of the 2024 meeting schedule will be provided for a vote at the December 2023 meeting.

The motion was made for already scheduled January 2024 meeting to now held at City Hall as the first there for the new year. The meeting date is January 23, 2024. Council Member Lopez made the motion which was seconded by Vice Chair Willette. All were in favor and the motion passed into the record.

The item of implementing multicultural training for the Council was presented by Council Member Kamens. This was an experience she had that felt it would be advantageous to the Council if it could be implemented.

Additional Social Media contacts were suggested in regards to the Social Media item discussed earlier in the meeting. Suggestions included radio shows and the Bristol Talks Facebook page.

Council Chair Bianca asked Council Member Lopes to read an article he had shared with her before the meeting. Council Member Lopes read a judge's statement when she handed down sentencing to an active shooter who had appeared before her in her court. Council Member Lopes



expressed his desire to join the Diversity Council based on the growing instances of adverse events, a growing pattern, across the country and locally.

6. Adjournment

Council Chair Bianca requested a motion to adjourn. The motion was put forward by Council Member Jordan and seconded by Council Vice Chair Willette. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:36pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Arsego
Sr. Administrative Assistant