



Diversity Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 6:30pm
Meeting Room 1-2 and on Zoom

Attendees:

Jaymie Bianca – Chair, Council Members Marcus Patton, David MacGregor Rackliffe, Jeffrey Israel (Zoom), Sandra Kamens (Zoom), Jordan Lopez, and Tony Lopes

Absent: Alison Rae Willette – Vice Chair and Council Member Olivia Chapdelaine

Guests: None

1. Call to Order

Chair Jaymie Bianca called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. A quorum was present.

2. Approval of November 28, 2023 and December 26th, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Chair Bianca requested a motion to approve the minutes from both meetings. The motion was made by Council Member Lopes and was seconded by Council Member Lopez. All were in favor with no changes or corrections to be made to either set of Minutes and the Minutes were accepted into the record.

3. Public Participation

Haneen Alkabasi, intern at Bristol Edition joined on Zoom and introduced herself to the Council.

4. Current Business

a. 2024 Calendar Approval

Chair Bianca led a discussion about the calendar and the December 2024 date which would be the 24th of that month (Christmas Eve – this meeting is held the fourth Tuesday of every month). Alternative dates were discussed as well as the option of not holding a December 2024 meeting.

Council Member Marcus put forth the motion to not hold a December 2024 meeting which was seconded by Council Member David. All were in favor and the proposed 2024 Meeting Calendar was accepted into the record with the amendment of no December 2024 meeting. Recording Secretary Arsego advised she would make the note for the City Clerk's Office and submit the calendar which is due on January 31, 2024.

City of Bristol

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b. Sub-Committee Discussion

Chair Bianca reviewed possible sub-committee topics to focus on based on previous meeting discussions. The role of the sub-committees was also discussed. The agreed upon starting sub-committees were Anti-Racism, Small Business & Commerce Diversity, and Religious Diversity.

Council Member Marcus made the motion to establish the Anti-Racism, Small Business & Commerce and Religious Diversity sub-committees. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lopez. All were in favor and the sub-committees were voted in as established for the Council.

c. Resource List Update

The Chair expressed having the Google doc list finalized and shared out to the members again for a final review ahead of the Council's February 6, 2024 public release date. Council Member Marcus asked how he could assist with the process. The Chair advised that any descriptions and phone numbers etc. missing from the listings could be added.

d. Panel Series Discussion

The Chair revisited the Youth Panel Series idea. Additional discussion included what the panel would look like for representation with the focus on high school age panelists. This would be the February 2024 panel. Further discussion of possible panel topics, feasibility with a time frame, and dates continued.

It was decided to hold the Panel Discussion at the March 26, 2024 regular meeting date to allow for more time to plan and confirm panel members. Chair Bianca requested a motion to hold the Panel Discussion on the fourth Tuesday of March 2024. The motion was made by Council Member Rackliffe and seconded by Council Member Lopes. All were in favor and the motion was accepted into the record. It was noted that this would be a Special Meeting and there was discussion of scheduling a larger room to accommodate the panel and the guests.

Additional discussion of setting future Panel Discussion dates and topics followed. Council Member Rackliffe made the motion to hold a Law Enforcement Panel Discussion May 28, 2024 the date of the Council's Regular Meeting. Council Member Patton seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was accepted into the record. This will also be a Special Meeting with a room to accommodate. Both of the Panel Discussions will run from 6pm to 7pm followed by the meeting.

5. New Business

a. Attendance Updates

Chair Bianca provided a brief attendance review and the importance of regular attendance.



b. Upcoming Events

No Upcoming Events were noted. Discussion about the recent appearance of 1 Degree of Separation at the Rockwell Theater. Their goal is to use comedy to help break down barriers and stigma with regards to mental illness. More Community Conversations are expected and the hopes are that attendance would continue to grow.

Sharon Arsego as Recording Secretary shared the new Bristol All Heart website as a resource for individuals and businesses. The website is <https://bristolallheart.com/>. The website was newly updated with easier viewing and highlights. The site can be used in the Resource List the Council is publishing and for the small business sub-committee Council Member Patton introduced.

6. Adjournment

The Chair called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Council Member Patton and seconded by Council Member Lopez. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Arsego
Recording Secretary