

**City of Bristol
Diversity Council
Tuesday, April 23, 2024
6:00 p.m.**

Meeting Room 1-2, Bristol City Hall, 111 North Main Street, Bristol, CT 06010

Attendees: Chair Jaymie Bianca, Vice-Chair Alison Willette, Sandra Kamens, Antonio Lopes, Marcus Patton, David Rackliffe, Jordan Lopez, Mayor Jeff Caggiano

Absent: Jeff Israel, Olivia Chapdelaine

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bianca at 6:34 p.m. A quorum was present

2. Approval of January 23, 2024 and March 26, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Chair Bianca requested a motion to approve the minutes from both meetings. The motion was made by Council Member Lopes and seconded by Council Member Kamens. All were in Favor to accept the minutes as presented. Motion passed.

3. Public Participation

No public Participation

4. Current Business

a. Next Panel Discussion

Chair Bianca led a discussion regarding the next Panel discussion proposed for May 28th which is also Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. Chair Bianca wanted to see if there was still an interest in doing this panel.

Council Member Patton mentioned how He did a Law Enforcement Panel Discussion at ESPN and how it was organized and the outcome of the Panel. The ESPN roundtable was more on the process and checks and balances, maybe focus ours on Appreciation.

Chair Bianca agreed and maybe keep it on the Appreciation side and collect questions before hand to try and guide the discussion in one area. Also try to tie it in to The Diversity Council Mission of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Chair Bianca asked Council Member Patton to spear head organizing and inviting attendees, as he was on the Planning Committee for ESPN. She asked Council Member Patton to reach out to Interim Chief Morello and the Police Board to see if they can attend.

Council Member Rackliffe stated that we can reach out to the Mayors office to help promote the event.

Council Member Lopez stated that he is from New Haven but lives in Bristol now and the atmosphere here is different towards the Police and to try and keep the questions and discussion in a positive tone to prevent any issues.

Chair Bianca entertained a motion to move forward with the Police Appreciation Panel at a Special Meeting on May 28th at 6pm. The motion was made by Council Member Patton and seconded by Council Member Lopes. All were in Favor and the motion passed.

b. Sub-Committee Discussion

Chair Bianca brought up the new subcommittees and the members of each subcommittee.

Religious Diversity will be David Rackliffe (P.O.C), Sandra Kamens, and Jeff Israel.

Mayor Caggiano joined the meeting at 7:11pm

Business Social Media will be Marcus Patton (P.OC), Allison Willette, and the Chair

Anti-Racism Committee will be Antonio Lopez (P.OC), Jordan Lopes, and Marcus Patton

Chair Bianca requested the Sub-Committees meet prior to the next meeting. Council Member Patton requested clarification on Business and social media as the original Idea was Diversity in Business, where did social media come from. Chair Bianca explained the Social Media aspect was to advertise and support Diverse Businesses.

c. Resource List Update

Chair Bianca will be reaching out to Donna Osuch and Donna Koser to finalize the Resource list. Would like to focus on the Panel Discussion now and maybe get the list out by summer. The council agreed.

Mayor Caggiano asked for clarification of the Resource List, Chair Bianca explained that it would be an informative list for Residence looking for answers and help in certain areas.

5. New Business

a. Upcoming Events

- National Day of Prayer: May 2nd 5pm Good Shepard Episcopal Church Stafford Ave.
- Peace March: May 18th, Federal Hill, 1-3 PM
- Juneteenth Event run by Scott Rosado; looking for help on the Planning Committee
- Wonder of Women event: May 1st 6pm Aquaturf, Mainstreet Community Foundation
- ALS Run/Walk in Berlin: Saturday May 18, 10-1 \$35 per person

- Farmer's Market: Saturdays June-Nov. Maybe have a table for Diversity Council
- 3rd Autism Education and Awareness Forum: April 29, 9-3 Waterbury Arts Magnet School
- Men and Boys Fund Breakfast: June 6, 2024, featuring speaker Dave Stevens (DoubleTree by Hilton Hotels in Bristol, 8:00 AM) Proceeds from the event support programs that improve the lives of men and boys in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth Southington and Wolcott.
- Prudence Crandall Domestic Violence Fundraiser, Event Center May 30 \$125

Chair Bianca encouraged everyone to share upcoming events for promotion. She also stated she will try to create a Google calendar with all events and share it so all council members can add to it.

6. Adjournment

The Chair called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Council Member Kamens and seconded by Council Member Lopez. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Little
Recording Secretary