



*City of Bristol
Diversity Council*

INFORMATION TO ACCESS THIS MEETING

[https://bristolct-
gov.zoom.us/j/82946776934?pwd=cEVOUnVJaExGQIF3WFhHak1JZUJ3dz09](https://bristolct.gov.zoom.us/j/82946776934?pwd=cEVOUnVJaExGQIF3WFhHak1JZUJ3dz09)

**Meeting ID: 829 4677 6934
Passcode: 346884**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The regular Diversity Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at 6:30pm in Meeting Room 1-2, City Hall, 111 North Main Street, Bristol, Connecticut.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Minutes from the March 25, 2025 Regular Meeting
 - B. Minutes from the April 8, 2025 Special Meeting
- III. Council attendance and introductions
- IV. Public Participation
- V. Current Business
 - A. City of Bristol umbrella vs Task Force after new information
 - Fundraising Opportunities
 - Membership Growth
 - B. Diversity Council Event: Meet & Greet (Review)
 - Discuss thoughts and opinions on Meet & Greet event
- VI. New Business
 - A. Strategies and Ideas for Future DC Events and Schedule Cadences

- Cash Mob
- Town Hall Event
- Words Matter (Cultural Conversation Words and their Meanings)
- *Council Members Present and Discuss Ideas*

B. Commitments on Partnerships and Liaison Representation

- Council Members select June Partnerships and Meeting Attendance

VII. Notable Events, News and Notes

A **May 28th**

- Monthly Open Mic Night – Creative Jam Art Co., Riverside Ave
<https://bristolallheart.com/event/open-mic-nights-creative-jam-art-co-4/>

May 29th

Pizza Cooking Class – Bristol Public Library, High St
<https://bristolallheart.com/event/new-session-added-crash-course-cooking-pizza/>

May 31st

Live Comedy – Downtown Live at Rockwell Theater, Veterans Memorial Blvd
<https://bristolallheart.com/event/comedy-night-with-jimmy-cash-jay-martin/>

June 3rd

Men & Boys Fund MVP Breakfast – Doubletree Hilton, Bristol
<https://bristolallheart.com/event/mvp-breakfast-2/>

United Way Golf Tournament – Tunxis Country Club, Farmington, CT
<https://bristolallheart.com/event/united-way-51st-annual-golf-tournament/>

June 7th

Intro to Sour Dough Workshop – Bristol Public Library, High St
<https://bristolallheart.com/event/intro-to-sour-dough-workshop/>

June 10th

Invisible: Living Well with Autoimmune Disease – Bristol Public Library, High St
<https://bristolallheart.com/event/invisible-living-well-with-autoimmune-disease/>

June 12

Introduction to Supervisory Skills – BristolWORKS!, N. Main St.
<https://bristolallheart.com/event/introduction-to-supervisory-skills/>

June 13th

Shoreline Ringers @ the Library Coffee House – Bristol Public Library, High St

<https://bristolallheart.com/event/shoreline-ringers-the-library-coffee-house/>

June 17th

Tips for Managing Loneliness with Dr. Wendy Hurwitz – Bristol Public Library, High St
<https://bristolallheart.com/event/tips-for-managing-loneliness-w-dr-wendy-hurwitz/>

June 21st

Opening Day of the Bristol Farmers Market – 10 Main St Parking Lot
<https://bristolallheart.com/event/opening-day-the-bristol-farmers-market/>

And this is big push for the city Parks and Rec:

https://bristolct.myrec.com/forms/5359_2025_summer_snapshot_released_april_8_2025.pdf

VIII. Adjournment

PER ORDER OF THE INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
Marcus Patton

Diversity Council Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 6:30pm
Hybrid Meeting: In-Person and on Zoom
Meeting Room 1-2, City Hall, 111 N. Main St., Bristol, CT

Attendees: Marcus Patton – Interim Chair, Council Members Sandra Kamens, Tony Lopes, and David Rackliffe

Absent: City Council Member, Mark Dickau, and Council Member Jeff Israel

Guests: None

I. Call to Order

The Interim Chair called the meeting to order at 6:32pm. A quorum was present.

II. Approval of Minutes

a. Minutes from the February 25, 2025 Regular Meeting

Interim Chair Patton called for a motion to approve the Minutes from the February 25, 2025 Regular Meeting. Council Member Kamens noted a typo where it should say Voices of Hope it says Vices of Hope. The motion to approve the minutes with the correction was made by Council Member Lopes. All were in favor and the Minutes were accepted into the record.

III. Public Participation

There was no Public Participation.

IV. Council attendance and introductions

V. Current Business

a. Operating under City of Bristol umbrella vs. Task Force or similar

Interim Chair Patton reviewed the previous meetings overall discussion of the Diversity Council either moving to a Task Force or remaining under the city. He called on Council Member Lopes to offer his input on the decision. Council Member Lopes expressed his approval to move to a Task Force noting that the energy for success, the chance to grow in members and funding options stands with that. With the change to a Task Force, he believes a name change is needed. Discussion followed.

The Interim Chair advised he would need to write a proposal to the mayor to become a Task Force under the Mayor. Some questions remain, including the need for political party representation, that the Interim Chair can bring to the mayor for clarification. The Council did confirm during the meeting that they could raise funds with the Board of Finance's approval while being a mayor's task force. There are residents interested in participating on the Council

and will be contacted when the format of the Council is confirmed. Additional discussion followed.

The Council decided to hold the vote on moving to a mayor's Task Force or remaining under the city until Council Member Israel was present. Discussion followed regarding holding a Special Meeting for the vote, cancelling the scheduled April 2025 meeting, and holding the Community Conversation event that night instead.

Council Member Rackliffe made a motion to move the Community Conversation to April 22, 2025 from 6pm to 7:30pm, and to cancel the regular Diversity Council Meeting previously scheduled for that night to hold the event at that time. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kamens. All were in favor and the Motion was accepted into the record.

The date and time for the Special Meeting also to be held in April will be determined and communicated to the Council. At that meeting the members will take their vote regarding becoming a Task Force or not.

b. Diversity Council Event:

- Finalize Safe Spaces/Brave Space (Meet & Greet)? Other ideas?
- April/Date to finalize
- Format
- Facilitators

The event will be held April 22, 2025 at 6:00pm at the Bristol Public Library. Discussion to decide the event format, purpose, name, facilitator and marketing followed. The council members will lead with introductions at the event, encouraging people to share or listen, which ever they feel more comfortable doing. Various council members were tasked with logistical aspects of the event including securing a facilitator and creation of a flyer to promote the event. The Council wants this to be a time when Bristol residents can learn about each other to the extent that people are willing to share.

VI. New Business

a. Commitments on partnerships and liaison representation

Interim Chair Patton revisited the partnerships and liaison representation opportunities for the council members. Meetings and Boards to attend include Chamber of Commerce, Bristol Police Department, and city events such as volunteering at Downtown Live events. The Bristol Magazine is coming from two men who already have magazines for other Connecticut towns as well. Discussion of a Bristol photo contest and T-shirt design contest was also discussed.

Business cards and council shirts were also discussed.

Council Member Kamens shared an article from the February 20, 2025 Hartford Courant on the benefits of diversity, equity and inclusion. She also reported on the Bristol Hospital Diversity Committee Black History Month presentation. The presenter worked with Coretta Scott King

among other historic figures in the Civil Rights Movement and the vein of Social Justice. The presenter may be someone the council can have at one of their events in the future.

VII. Notable Events, News and Notes

Open Mic Night the last Wednesday of every month from 7pm to 8:30pm with sign ups starting at 6:45pm. The next one is March 26th at Creative Jam Art Co., Riverside Avenue

Hidden Figures movie playing for Free at the Rockwell Theater at BAIMS – March 27th starting at 6pm

VIII. Adjournment

Council Member Kamens made the motion to adjourn, and the motion was seconded by Council Member Lopes. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Arsego
Recording Secretary

Diversity Council Special Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at 6:30pm

Hybrid Meeting: In-Person and on Zoom

Meeting Room 1-2, City Hall, 111 N. Main St., Bristol, CT

Attendees: Marcus Patton – Interim Chair, and City Council Member, Mark Dickau with Council Members Sandra Kamens, Tony Lopes, and David Rackliffe on Zoom

Absent: Council Member Jeff Israel

Note: Council Member Jeff Israel later confirmed he was unable to join the meeting due to technical limitations in his location.

Guests: None

I. Call to Order

Interim Chair Patton called the meeting to order at 6:32pm. There was a quorum.

II. Public Participation

There was no Public Participation.

III. Council Attendance

Council attendance was taken.

IV. Current Business (Special Meeting)

- a. Operating under City of Bristol umbrella vs. Task Force or similar
 - Introduce topic of discussion
 - Each council member presents their position
 - Call to vote
 - Layout action plan post vote (if applicable)

The Interim Chair reviewed the options and what they looked like for the Council moving forward as previously discussed. He then called for Council Member input before putting it to a vote.

Council Member Kamens expressed her support of becoming a Task Force.

Council Member Rackliffe clarified that becoming a Task Force now meant that they could still move to a different operating level at a later date. Typically, a Task Force is to address a specific issue or goal and then disband. If the flexibility is there to be a Task Force now with eyes on the long term, he expressed his support of moving to a Task Force.

Council Member Lopes was also in favor of moving to a Task Force with the understanding that there is no end date. This move would future proof them from constraints they're currently under, and set them up to serve the city in the best way they can long-term.

Interim Chair Patton echoed the above sentiments, and spoke in favor of becoming a Task Force for a time, and to then transition into an independent entity. This would include becoming a 501(c)3, and growing membership with people who are passionate about serving the city regardless of political affiliation.

The Interim Chair spoke with the mayor that day with regard to the options and resources that the Council had discussed. He confirmed that as a Task Force they would still have use of City Hall, access to a Recording Secretary, and the ability to fundraise with Board of Finance approval. With this in mind, it was the Interim Chair's recommendations to move forward as a Task Force with a goal of separating completely in the near future.

The Interim Chair called for a vote for the Diversity Council to become a Task Force under the mayor, for a limited time, to then move into an independent body as discussed. The motion was put forward by Council Member Lopes and seconded by Council Member Rackliffe. All were in favor, and the Motion passed into the record.

Interim Chair Patton will now draft a letter to the Mayor's Office to accept their plan. It will then go to City Council and then he should hear back from them shortly after.

V. Adjournment

The Interim Chair called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Council Member Kamens and was seconded by Council Member Rackliffe. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 6:44pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Arsego
Recording Secretary