

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION COMMISSION MINUTES
7:00pm THURSDAY MAY 6th, 2021

* VIRTUAL MEETING *

X	David Martin, Chair	X	Nathan Cookson, Clerk
X	Diane Randolph Jones, Vice Chair		Sunanda Pepalla
X	Leela Ramachandran		Nassra Mgeni
X	Sandra Hinds		Makena Muindi
	Neha Saravanan (Associate)	X	Dawn Wang
X	Julie Pierce Onos (Associate)		Charmaine Williams
		X	Odeviz Soto

Link to Docushare <http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-13550>

Called to order at 19:01

I. Regular Business

1. Notes from the chair

Due to lack of participation, public comment will be limited to contacts outside of meetings (members, email, letters to commission, etc)

Select board meeting criticized commission – one select board member reached out to apologize for the other board member's behavior

Previous recreation director working on initiative for parks and rec grant to make walkable Acton – part of it would go towards ensuring equitable access to recreation

Diane won one of the volunteer of the year awards!!

II. Special Business

2. Fair housing discussion with Acton Community Housing Corporation

- Bob Van Meter shared presentation and slides on the history of housing practices and segregation Acton
- Bernice and Lara presented additional information on the Housing Authority
- If DEIC wants to include recommendations for fair housing in report to select board ACHC is happy to work with us

3. Legislation for anti-racism, equity, and justice in education (<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S365>) – Dawn

- S365 broadly addresses anti-racism, equity, and justice in education
- 3 main areas: trust fund established, commission created with broad representation, workforce support/teacher training

4. Acton cultural center - Dawn

- Proposes utilizing Asa Parlin house as cultural center, potentially for meeting space, art galleries, performance space, seminars
- 7 core group members working on it

- They have created a petition that Dawn would like support on
- 5. Actions that we can take to address DEI in Acton – Neha
 - SKIPPED due to time constraints
- 6. Plan for DEIC Select Board report
 - Item SKIPPED, discussion about ~500 responses as of a week ago, hope to share the survey as broadly as possible to solicit any and all experiences/opinions/points of view
 - Dawn mentions May 30th event by ACACS to share Asian experiences locally

III. Closing Items

- 2. Approve minutes from previous meetings.
 - Motion to approve April 22, 2021 minutes by Leela, Odeviz seconds; approved unanimously
- 3. Confirm future meetings and calendar events.
 - • 7:00 THU 20 MAY meeting
 - • 7:00 THU 10 JUN meeting?
 - • 7:00 THU 24 JUN meeting?
- 4. Adjourn
 - Motion to adjourn by Dawn, Sandra seconds; approved unanimously
 - Meeting adjourned at 9:09 PM