

Bethel Equity and Inclusion Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: October 26, 2021

Committee Members Present: David Phair, Owen DMC, Jesse Plotsky, Rita Champion, Christy Fry, Laura Perez

Community Members Present: Jerry, Thomas, Lenny

introductions were made, name, pronouns and favorite halloween costume and candy

Public Comment:

Lenny reintroduced conversation about a Bethel gay pride event next year and what our committee's role would be in the event as facilitating a youth led event. David will reach out to the school to get connected with any queer or pride group at the highschool. Date and time of year for the event has yet to be decided.

review minutes. motion to approve minutes was made. all approved.

Updates:

Selectboard meeting updates from Jesse and Rita. The selectboard had successfully gotten the equipment to make the meetings be accessible on zoom. They were still testing out the equipment and production and have yet to announce the zoom offering to the public.

The possible addition of a full time constable to the town budget was discussed. It was proposed that we could write a letter to the selectboard about our concerns and questions as a committee. The question of how to evaluate the current constables performance came up.

Discussion:

Owen proposed facilitating community conversations about issues that are being raised like drunk driving, speeding, substance abuse, safety etc. to hear from the community as well as collectively talk about alternative solutions.

WRVSU is in its 5th draft, nearing a hopeful approval. will not be a vote until the following selectboard meeting. Owen and Laura are keeping in the loop with the superintendent.

every town update- Rita, the date to help insulate the cabin in Bethel will either be November 7 or 14th.

historical society update- Owen. they are up for collaboration with the phonebook project. survey formal / informal about what people need. Questions like how to we include cell numbers, not

Open Meeting Laws:

<https://www.vlct.org/sites/default/files/documents/Resource/VLCT%20Open%20Meeting%20Law%20FAQs.pdf>

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having land lines. etc inclusivity conversations and also exclusivity for people who do not want their numbers. This would be a good collaboration for the committee.

update on floor votes vs australian ballot was made. We are going back to floor voting for all town matters with the expectation of school board. town approval to ask for constituents to vote. Something we can do to request to be voted on. the selectboard doesnt have authority to change it, it has to be voted on at town meeting if we want to move to australian ballot.

christy will draft an email to the new inquiries that signed up at Forward Fest.

meeting adjourned 8:06

Motions, Proposals, and Resolutions Made:

motion to approve last meetings notes were made. minutes were approved

Voting Record:

(Note: need to indicate individual votes if a roll call is taken)

Next Meeting Date:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/5820627640?pwd=TVNiSURhVm5ScTgweWl6OHdRbzZ4QT09>

Meeting ID: 582 062 7640

Passcode: equity

Dial In: 1-646-558-8656

Notes Taken By: Rita Champion

Meeting facilitated by: Owen DMC

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