

Bethel Equity and Inclusion Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: February 27, 2024

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

Community Members Present: Jess Abston, Lisa Campbell, Leonard Meek, Gene Kraus

introductions were made, check ins.

Public Comment:

Lisa updated the EIC on Vermont Reads program, there will be a reading at town hall on March 21st at 5:30, Last Night at the Telegraph Club, a book that is covering Vermont history with LGBTQ and McCarthyism. People can sign up at the Bethel U website.

Updates:

Selectboard updates, new Sheriff Ryan Palmer and the budget increase to accommodate a new full time position is on the ballot. Discussion about inviting him to an EIC meeting to get a chance to talk with him about his role and policing and how we can be a resource for him. Laura will reach out to him about scheduling an in person meeting.

Jesse will be reading the declaration of Equity and Inclusion at town Meeting.

Laura updated on accessible communities project postcards being sent out. Discussion about providing a stipend for artists who have contributed to the post cards. 2000 post cards will be sent, \$.02/postcard with a \$.17 per stamp. There will also be a link to the video on our website. Discussion about adding a new tab for accessibility on EIC website and check for a link to a youtube account.

Trans youth group is now an all ages affinity space meeting on Mondays at the town hall. They would like to utilize that space as more of a community gathering room.

Action Items

Laura will reach out to Ryan Palmer and invite him to the next EIC meeting.

Owen and Leonard plan to attend the March selectboard meetings.

Rita will reach out to Hannah about retreat dates.

Discussion:

Discussion around potentially meeting with the new sheriff in town, what format feels most productive and questions we would like to ask.

Discussion around moving forward with Hannah Milnes as an event consultant for the group. A focus of the retreat to be a time for all of us to reflect on the past three years and where the EIC would like to go moving forward.

Thought on how to inspire more diverse members to join the EIC.

Books have arrived for the Parable of the Sower, our next book club May 14.

Adjourned 8:00pm

Open Meeting Laws:

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

**Bethel Equity and Inclusion Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Motions, Proposals, and Resolutions Made:

motion to approve last meetings notes at February meeting were made.

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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