

Bethel Equity and Inclusion Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: 3/1/21

Committee Members Present: David Phair, Owen Daniel-McCarter, Jesse Plotsky, Laura Perez, Rita Champion, Christy Fry, Jerry Thomas, Tristan Brown

Community Members Present: Lauren and Ross Linthicum, thomas and lenny Meek, Leah

Public Comment:

no public comment was made.

Discussion:

introductions were made, pronouns, what brought us to joining and forming the committee, motion to approve meeting minutes. Rita made motion, Jerry seconded.

Laura requested an agenda amendment to bring up conversation about new facilitators to the group meetings. agenda amendment was approved.

Survey and census group update. Owen spoke to Jean, greg and susie, cochairs of the historical society about revitalizing as it is on hold at the moment. The Historical Society receives money from the state so possibly partnering with them on new phonebook and census for printing and publishing.

website committee updated group on the status of website and approval from Selectboard. We are able to move forward with the design of website but nothing can be made live until towns social media policy is updated and all items on website are approved and management of the website is agreed upon.

audit committee updates: template was made for the values and things we are looking for in these audits. also important to make sure website is following these framework.

anti racism training update, discussion about bethel university class description review.

BIPOC land access group, owen updated the organizers on our previous conversation at last meeting presenting concerns about land trust versus land ownership.

juneteenth celebration conversation, wanting the group to do something active. David would like to march for the “fallen Black soldiers” honoring and celebrating. combine it with an art installation. mount and install at the town hall with approval from town for an amount of time. there was talk of ideas about summer programming. music, movie nights.

voted to support Juneteenth celebration. vote was approved.

agenda items not discussed were added to the top of next meeting agenda.
no new moderators were chosen for future meetings.

meeting adjourned. 7:30

Open Meeting Laws:

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

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NOTES shared in meeting:

FYI - Bethel University is offering a course on the "Royalton Raid" which is directly involving the history of colonization of indigenous people in our community:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-royalton-raid-revisited-bethel-university-registration-142377682481>

Up until a few years ago, the town of Royalton reenacted this "raid" with folks in Brown face - HORRIBLE stuff!

Here are the photos from Nick Keating for the exhibit

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/jpn5htyp8o4baa4/AADnP2b8JR4yUADt0yHz2W30a?dl=0>

Motions, Proposals, and Resolutions Made:

Voting Record:

vote to approve Juneteenth celebration.

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

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