

Bethel Equity and Inclusion Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: May 17, 2021

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

Community Members Present: Lindley Brainard, Thomas and Leonard Meek. Martha Leibbrandt, Gene Kraus, Jerry Thomas

introductions were made, names, pronouns, astrological sign, favorite green things were stated.

Public Comment:

Martha brought up a flag that is being displayed on north Main street. It was introduced that maybe we make flags and hang them that represent Bethel to be an inclusive safe space. Possibly an art project for kids. Or a Juneteenth banner hung between babes and cockadoodle possibly? other option is making smaller banners welcoming people into town. It was discussed how making the banner at the Juneteenth celebration is not the appropriate time. Martha will follow up with Therese about some of these banner ideas and work out the logistics of installation.

Updates:

Juneteenth update. not an official EIC event, but possibly added to website.

Discussion:

Check in about minute taking and facilitator roles. Owen offered to step in as Facilitator for the next couple weeks. Possible additional meeting for crew planning Juneteenth celebration. Non E&I committee related.

David Updated on Juneteenth celebration plannings. 4 hip hop acts, one jazzy band and a spoken word performance. Possibly Kirk White wanted to speak. David is looking for more speakers. Possibly reaching out to Jameson, or Dean Shirley Jefferson. Also talking about food and beverage vendors. possibly farmers market addition. David Wants this event to also generate revenue for local businesses, producers and farmers.

Kevin Christy came up as another person to reach out to. Barb Nickerson is in charge of the farmers market in Bethel, Rita will reach out to her and see if she would like to be involved.

June 26 and 27 softball tournament. reach out to David if you want in.

Owen update committee on definitions. Added imagery and make them accessible to multiple age groups. circle conversations came out as a no from the selectboard. A general discomfort about the circle process was expressed. however There is more vocal support for the E&I committee and appreciation for the conversations that have been had.

adjourned 7:49

Open Meeting Laws:

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

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Motions, Proposals, and Resolutions Made:

motion to approve last meetings notes were made. approved minutes from 4/26/21

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: Christy Fry

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