

Bethel Equity and Inclusion Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: July 22 2021

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

Community Members Present: Gene Kraus

Public Comment:

Gene proposed the E & I committee consider coming up with a theme or motto of inclusivity for the Bethel Forward festival. To represent who Bethel is. something like “Better Together”?

Motions, Proposals, and Resolutions Made:

Discussion:

Owen brought to the committee the Better connections project. A grant funded project looking at increasing accessibility in the downtown district of Bethel. In pathways, walkways and transportation. Also a stormwater plan. The grant would fund a consultant, expert in this area, to make recommendations. This will then open the door to more funding to actualize those plans. Planning committee for the better connections project.

Laura is involved and Centering the voices of those with disabilities in the conversation.

Selectboard is asking to be brought the information and conversation for what we and the better connections committees find out.

Selectboard engagement

committee members will Choose days to attend the selectboard meetings.

Christy went to the last meeting and and reported back to the committee. Christy and Doug were the only non selectboard members in attendance. A lot of infrastructure talk. Open positions and what the open positions entail. Plain language translations to make meetings accessible. What these positions are and which are funded and which are not. Need a minute taker for selectboard (paid position) also need a town lister. the town is missing an opportunity. By not advertising these positions. Maybe they are advertised in the FPF.

Again talking about pushing for the meetings to be online and in person. As an accessibility issue. Maybe this committee could help the selectboard with funding.

Next step is to ask selectboard how we can help make it happen. If someone is already recording how we can use that video and sound feed into zoom. Each table is mic'd . At the next meeting on behalf of the EIC we are on the agenda and we make a statement about inclusivity and accessibility. What does the selectboard need to make this happen. If they don't know, we can take it from there for how to support them and make it happen. Christy maybe could make it happen. Owen is planning on attending and this proposal. Owen will email Therese to get it on the agenda

Open Meeting Laws:

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

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Lingering project. Survey. Put as agenda item for next meeting. Coming together what information we would like to put on the survey. Next meeting narrowing our goals for what we want from the survey. What would our goals of a pre-survey do? We don't want to muddle or over ask. Micro data that is not available that might be very helpful in knowing what roads need to be fixed, what water mains, etc. tax rates in isolated areas of Bethel. Gene shared how it would be useful for the selectboard. Agenda for next meeting. "Do we want to do a pre survey or feelers to put out at forward fest?"

More expansive PRIDE. Not just lgbtq. A pride event in Bethel, sometime in 2022. Thinking about safety and accessibility.

conversation and poll for regular meeting or at least next best time. 2 hour once a month is preferred.

Owen- Monday evenings. 1st or 3rd to balance out selectboard mtgs. Daytime possibly flexible, other evenings not likely.

Laura- 1 hour long mid day meeting is preferred, Monday evenings continue to work well 4-6 better timing.

Christy- 4-6 better timing, 1st or 2nd Mondays are better, 3rd wk is harder. Tuesdays and Thursdays could also work, 1 hour during day, but not 2 hours during day

Jesse- Monday 4-6. Tuesday could potentially work. Daytimes could work any day.

Rita - Monday 4-6, or mid day any day.

Proposed for September meeting, to give more accessibility considerations and be able to advertise to more people to make attending the meetings more accessible.

meeting adjourned 1:03

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

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