

BETHEL EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 21, 2021

Committee Members Present: Laura Perez, Christy Fry, Owen Daniel-McCarter, Jesse Plotsky, Jerry Thomas

Community Members Present: Lindley Brainard

Public Comment: No Public Comment

Discussion:

Group shared their names, preferred pronouns, and favorite (or least favorite) weather.

Last meeting's Minutes approved with no comment

The group spent time reflecting on this year's Juneteenth event. Laura shared she loved the event and being around people- her kids had a lot of fun, loved the music, and had a great time. They attended a Hartford event as well, which was filled with riveting speakers, was well attended, but not as much fun for the kids. Hartford was a town-sponsored event, the town manager spoke, as well as other lawmakers. She felt the town leadership was super present and involved in the event. Both events were featured in the Valley News Sunday paper. From the EIC overall impression of the Bethel Juneteenth event was super positive and hope it will continue in the years to come.

How do we move forward as a community to grow this celebration in future years?

Committee discussion of Bethel Pride event. Town office has received questions about a summer Pride event, and forwarded the question to the EIC. We reached out to the drive-in to see if they would host a screening of an LGBT+ film as part of a Pride celebration- they said not this summer due to lack of availability.

Some brainstorming about an inclusive (of all/any oppressed identities) Pride parade and/ or festival culminating at the Bandshell. A dance party? Or perhaps indoors at the White Church. What are the limitations of the bandshell? Want this to be expansive *and* exciting for high-school age folks as well. Plan to reach out to McKenzie who was originally interested in planning a Pride event and regrop at the next meeting.

Review of the committee Leadership, decision making processes, and structure. Since the document and intentions were created in January, is there anything about our decision making process that we'd like to revisit? Christy expressed her support for the model of sharing leadership/ facilitation, as it gives folks the ability to step into leadership and try their hand in those roles. Jerry also agrees this model is working well for our group. Our shared leadership model is a fluid process, asking folks to volunteer to facilitate meetings and take notes, because folks seem dedicated to the work, it feels like it's being shared equitably. Suggestion

to have a monthly check-in about how committee members feel about their leadership roles and responsibility.

Committee discussed a change of time for summer meetings. Because of shifting work schedules, the Monday evening meeting is not ideal. A google poll was sent last week to the group to figure out who can make certain times of the day/week. A midday week day meeting seems to be the most popular idea. Because 2 committee members were absent, the members present found a date that works for our next meeting- either 7/22 or 7/23 midday. At this next meeting we will prioritize a discussion of our ongoing meeting day and time for the rest of the summer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:34

Motions, Proposals, and Resolutions Made:

None

Voting Record:

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

Next Meeting Date: Tentatively 7/22 or 7/23 at 12pm (will update when confirmed)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/5820627640?>

[pwd=TVNiSURhVm5ScTgweWl6OHdRbzZ4QT09](https://zoom.us/j/5820627640?pwd=TVNiSURhVm5ScTgweWl6OHdRbzZ4QT09)

Meeting ID: 582 062 7640

Passcode: equity

Dial In: 1-646-558-8656

Notes Taken By: Jesse Plotsky