

Bethel Equity and Inclusion Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: 1/4/2021

Committee Members Present:

Christy Fry, Laura Perez, Rita Champion, David Phair, Tristan Brown, Owen Daniel-McCarter, Jesse Plotsky, Jerry Thomas, Mackenzie Hill

Community Members Present: Lenny Meek, Thomas Meek, Lindley Brainard

Public Comment: Laura opened the meeting to public comment. no public comments were made.

Discussion: New member Jerry Thomas was introduced and introductions of preferred pronouns, astrological sign and what brings us here were made by committee members and community members present.

Motions, Proposals, and Resolutions Made:

Laura proposed an update to the meeting agenda to add reflections from Lenny and David at the end of the meeting. no one opposed.

Laura asked if there were any edits to the living document she wrote up about the goals and who and what the Equity and Inclusion Committee is based on our first meetings. no edits were made at this time.

We then continued the conversation where we had left off at the previous meeting about how we would like our decision making process to be structured. Last week we closed with time to reflect. Owen recapped discussion from last week and we picked up talking about how to make equitable decisions with certain members having more weight on the decision when it is more directly related to their life story experience, race or gender. We agreed we were on the same page about this and decided on a consensus structure for decisions.

Laura introduced sub committee categories and members volunteered for subcommittees.

- Website subcommittee (Thomas, Rita, Mackenzie) w/ help from Andrew Plotsky
- Audit of town documents subcommittee (Owen, Laura, Jerry)
- Census / Phonebook / Survey subcommittee (Jerry, Owen, Christy)
- Whiteness Group Curriculum subcommittee (Jerry, Owen, Christy)
- **Bethel Rally for Black Lives 2021**
 - **Gallery Opening - partner with Historical Society?**
 - **Juneteenth Celebration in Bethel?**
- **Pride Event 2021**

sub committees in bold were not discussed further and have been tabled until next meeting.

Owen made a motion to approve minutes from the last two meetings. Rita seconded it.

David and Lenny gave us a recap of their talk with local legislators Dick McCormak, Alison Clarkson, Kirk White.

Open Meeting Laws:

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

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meeting adjourned at 8:19

Voting Record:

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

All members voted in favor of a consensus decision making structure.

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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