

Ad Hoc Diversity & Inclusion Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
Jan. 19, 2022

Video of the meeting may be found here:

<https://woodbridgect.webex.com/woodbridgect/lr.php?RCID=6b88f1144a840812a53a8b6ed3ff57a6>

In attendance: Chair Ellen Scalettar, Vice Chair Robert Reed, Tahera Parvez, Mohini Ranganathan, Steven Lawrence, Neelima Kaushal, Ke Xu, and staff Betsy Yagla.

Ms. Scalettar called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

New member Ke Xu was introduced to the group.

Opening Circle:

Ms. Scalettar read a quote from Thucydides.

Book Discussion

The group discussed the upcoming book event. Ms. Scalettar reported on her conversation with Rev. Antona Brent Smith who will be leading the book discussions.

Ms. Scalettar made a motion to hold the first 'Mosaic: Woodbridge Reading in Community' discussion on Feb. 24 from 7-9 pm about the book *The 1619 Project* by the author Nikole Hannah-Jones. Ms. Ranganathan seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

The discussion will focus on chapter 1 about democracy, chapter 7 about politics and chapter 8 about citizenship.

Mr. Reed mentioned that he has a connection to the book's archivist who may be willing to participate in the Town's event.

Diversity Statement

The group discussed the draft statement presented by Ms. Parvez.

Ms. Scalettar made a motion to amend the statement by adding "equity" to the committee's name and adding a sentence to say, "Our focus on diversity includes, but is not limited to, disability status, ethnic/racial identity, gender/gender identity, immigration status, religion, sexual identity and socioeconomic status" and to adopt the statement as amended. Mr. Lawrence seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

The Town of Woodbridge Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is dedicated to enhancing diversity and advancing equity and inclusion in all aspects of our Town life. Our focus on diversity includes, but is not limited to, disability status, ethnic/racial identity, gender/gender identity, immigration status, religion, sexual identity and socioeconomic status. We will identify and support efforts to build a community that values and celebrates the diversity and contributions of all residents, employees, and visitors and that promotes and welcomes increasing diversity in all its forms. We are committed to building a Town and Town government where all members of our strong and vibrant community are equally valued and equitably represented. Through a sustained commitment to identifying and addressing issues of diversity in all forms, we aspire to create a more inclusive, safe, and welcoming Woodbridge.

Survey

The committee reviewed and discussed the survey. Mr. Lawrence will edit the survey and send an updated version for the committee to review again at the February meeting.

Opening Circle

Ms. Parvez volunteered to lead the opening circle at the next meeting.

Minutes

Ms. Scalettar made a motion to approve the Dec. 15, 2021, meeting minutes. Mr. Reed seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

Ms. Scalettar made a motion to approve the special Dec. 21, 2021, meeting minutes with a clarification: the section about the 1619 book discussion should read, "... date and an in-person location, should one be needed..." Ms. Ranganathan seconded the motion. All in favor; the motion passed.

Adjournment

Mr. Reed made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Scalettar seconded. All in favor; the meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.