

Ad Hoc Diversity & Inclusion Committee Draft Meeting Minutes

Feb. 17, 2021

Video of this meeting can be seen here:

<https://woodbridgect.webex.com/recording/service/sites/woodbridgect/recording/30e6910704054840aaa1f10b03413a2/playback>

In attendance: Chair Ellen Scalettar, Joanna Ali, Lor Ferrante Fernandes, Neelima Kaushal and staff Betsy Yagla

Chair Ellen Scalettar called the meeting to order at 6:35.
New member Joanna Ali introduced herself to the committee.

Woodbridge Superintendent

Woodbridge Superintendent Dr. Jonathan Budd introduced himself to the committee and spoke about his work with the Superintendent's diversity committee.

He mentioned two initiatives his office is leading: goal to clarify and strengthen hiring practices related to diversity and a budget that provides curriculum and professional development to be attentive to and accountable to students.

Health Equity Solutions

The group agreed to table the discussion regarding Health Equity Solutions' proposal to declare racism a public health crisis. Ms. Ali said she would look for an example of a town comparable to Woodbridge that had passed a similar resolution.

Minutes

Ms. Scalettar made a motion to approve the January meeting minutes. Ms. Ferrante Fernandes seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.

2 Orchard Road

Town Counsel Gerald Weiner provided the committee with an update regarding the pending 2 Orchard Road zoning application and the relevant state laws.

Diversity Event

Ms. Scalettar reported that she had followed up on the diversity event that the Committee had discussed previously in an electronic meeting with Library Director Eric Werthmann, Community Council co-chair Debbie Brander and staff Betsy Yagla. The suggestion is to hold an in-person event in late summer or early fall, perhaps in conjunction with a Woodbridge Day, highlighting the Town's diversity and different organizations. There would also be a One Town One Book series of events related to the diversity day. Ms. Scalettar said she would continue to

explore ideas with the Library and Community Council and asked that members share any ideas they have.

The Committee agreed to share readings that could be used to open meetings. Ms. Ali offered to circulate a poem or short reading before the March meeting.

Adjournment

Ms. Ferrante Fernandes made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Scalettar seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:30