



Ad Hoc Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 6:30 pm via Webex

Present: Co-Chairs Ellen Scalettar and Tahera Parvez, Steven Lawrence, Mohini Ranganathan, Lor Ferrante Fernandes, Javier Aviles, Sofia Morales, and David Franklin

Guests: Peter Downhour, DEI Coach at Amity Regional High School
Jen Sullivan, Assistant Director/Head of Adult Services at the Woodbridge Library

1. Chair Parvez called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.
2. **Opening Circle**
Tahera Parvez opened the meeting with a short poem from Rupi Kaur's book *The Sun and Her Flowers*. Discussion ensued.
3. **Woodbridge Like Me Day – September 30**
Jen Sullivan was welcomed, and introductions were made. Jen will help the Committee with planning the WLM Day event.

WLM participation commitments from organizations, performances, and food trucks were reviewed. Committee members will follow up with other organizations and performers for WLM participation. Additionally, an invitation to attend the event will be extended by the Committee to everyone who attended the Experiencing Woodbridge Survey-Community Discussion event.

Jen will take on the role of extending an invitation to Town Departments to participate in the WLM event as well as work with departments on event logistics. Plans to invite Board and Commissions were discussed.

Using Amity High School as a rain location was discussed. Specific details to follow.

Chair Parvez will submit the online application to hold the event on the Town Green for Board of Selectman approval.

4. **Experiencing Woodbridge Survey- Community Discussion**
Feedback was shared relating to the Experiencing Woodbridge Survey-Community Discussion that took place in April. The consensus was that Steven Lawrence was exceptional at facilitating the community discussion—people were engaged and meaningful conversations took place.

5. **Other Outreach Initiatives & Updates**

Attending Amity Board of Education meetings was discussed.

6. **February, March & April Minutes – Vote**

Ellen Scalettar motioned to accept February, March & April Minutes;
Lor Ferrante Fernandes seconded. Motion passed.

Vote Yes: Ellen Scalettar, Tahera Parvez, Steven Lawrence, Sofia Morales,
Lor Ferrante Fernandes, David Franklin, Mohini Ranganathan, and
Javier Aviles (February & March Minutes)

Abstain: Javier Aviles (April Minutes)

7. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, July 19.

8. **Volunteer for Next Opening Circle:** Lor Ferrante Fernandes.

9. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted: *Toni Belenski*