

Woodbridge Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity and Inclusion

Draft Meeting Minutes

Aug. 18, 2021

A recording of this virtual meeting can be seen here:

<https://woodbridgect.webex.com/woodbridgect/lr.php?RCID=119185bce9891e7ddc01eb16b9752c0e>

In attendance: Vice Chair Robert Reed, Neelima Kaushal, Mauriel Vega, Beecher liaison Tahera Parvez and staff Betsy Yagla.

At 6:38 Vice Chair Robert Reed called the meeting to order.

1. Mr. Vega shared an excerpt from “How We Show Up” by Mia Birdsong for the Opening Circle.
2. Diversity Event: Ms. Parvez shared that she reached out to the principals of both Amity Regional High School and Beecher Road School and both are interested in participating. After the school year starts they will get back to her with how the school will participate. Dr. Kaushal reported that Rotary will participate and she is still waiting to hear back from the Woodbridge Park Association, the Woodbridge Land Trust and the Girl Scouts. Mr. Reed said he had spoken with Massaro Community Farm and they are interested. He also spoke with the JCC, and is waiting for a call back from two others. Mr. Vega said he had not yet had a chance to reach out to his assigned groups. Ms. Yagla reported that she reached out to several and that the Friends of the Library and Community Council will participate. The Woodbridge Arts Guild, 10Selden, dog park and a Chinese dance group have expressed interest.

In order to not overlook any group Ms. Yagla will draft a press release for the Woodbridge Town News and Town website inviting community groups to participate.

3. Amity Regional High School update: Ms. Parvez shared that the Amity DEI group has met a second time with the Amity administration and continue to work together on setting the tone for a safe and respectful school climate.
4. Updates and Announcements: Ms. Yagla reported that the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities has created a racial equity toolkit and is holding a training on Aug. 25. She will share the invitation with the group.

5. Opening Circle: Mr. Reed volunteered to provide the reading at the next meeting.
6. July meeting minutes: Mr. Reed made a motion to approve the minutes; Dr. Kaushal seconded. All in favor; the motion passed.
7. Mr. Reed made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Vega seconded. All in favor; the meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.