

MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING

Commission on Racial Justice and Equity

Thursday, April 22, 2021

7pm

Held Via Zoom

Meeting began at 7pm. In attendance were Zabian Alarcon, Alina Bricklin-Goldstein, Deb Carroll, Tracy-Ann Johnson, Barret Katuna, Sue Oppenheimer, Dave Peniston, Lillian Tanski, Michael Vigeant, Jen Wang

Public Comment: None

Discussion on upcoming Art Contest

SO: Offered explanation of logo artwork, many options, shared 7 possibilities

JW: Love the creative thinking—would we use this for flyers? Social media?

TJ: We need to consider what imagery will “pop” for multiple age groups

JW: We also need to look at our “terms and conditions” for the contest as well as prompts for the theme. Can we use the mission statement as a prompt?

AG: Let’s consider different language for different age groups as far as the prompts

LT: Thank you to Sue and Tracy-Ann for their work on this!

TJ: Thanks to Sue for her hard work on this

AG willing to help with final push

SO: concerned about deadline/end of school

DC: Let’s aim for end of next week (4/30) for finishing flyer/language

General discussion of the 7 different images

JW: Some images are for an Art Show, some for Art Contest. Let’s start with contest, deal with potential show later. How will we be judging works? Winners from different age groups? Where do we want to/can we display pieces?

DC: What about the artists’ market pop-up on Main St?

LT: Will reach out to CT River Inn, who run pop-up

AG: What about at Riverbend Books? At least putting up flyer there

Discussion on Communications

JW: Website becoming more populated. Barret and I working on content/adding material. Good place to promote Art Contest. Missing bios for Deb and Lillian for the “who we are” section

BK: We will add linked calendar, opportunities to help/get involved, social media links. No endorsement of various “partner” organizations, just information about them.

JW: We can put the site URL on the Art Contest flyer. Good place for updates on the contest.

MV: In the survey, at the end, we can add link to website and have summary info available live on the site

JW: Shared summary of information to populate site thus far, “don’t let perfect be the enemy of the good”—let’s just get started!

DC will help with copy/content

MV: Will there be a form/link for people wanting to communicate with Commission?

JW: Unsure we need newsletter, but folks can ask for email when new content gets posted

MV: Jake at Great Blue can help with Word Press

Discussion on Mission Statement

DC: Need to change commission title in mission statement to reflect other print versions: Racial Justice and Equity Commission

Discussion on Survey Draft

MV: Went through overview of all changes in current draft. There will be a progress bar in the survey so folks know how far they are in the survey. If someone logs out before completion, survey will automatically bring them back to place they left off when they log back in. Looking for one more round of feedback.

SO: Will the survey be available in English only? Or also in Spanish?

MV: We will get a Spanish version online as well

BK: Will survey access be limited to people over the age of 18?

MV: We can have heads of household offer consent for minors, requires written consent. Let’s think about the language of the survey in that case and what questions are superfluous for younger participants.

DC: Could we connect with the CI class at GHS to find our over 18s?

MV: We could do a 13+ version, there needs to be a tree of consent. Let’s connect with the schools via Allan if we want to pursue this. There could be an access code or something similar given to the schools for students to use.

Maybe HS and up?

Unanimous agreement on HS age and up—9th grade.

MV: Limit HS version to 25 questions, make some other tweaks to content

DC: Do we have a launch date for this?

MV: Send updates by Monday—finalize any changes this coming week. Ready to launch the week of May 10th, leave survey open for 2-3 weeks.

DP: Maybe work with Dr. Claiborne on HS inclusion in survey?

DC: Governor directing municipalities to meet in person for town business starting 5/19. Not sure what that means for commissions. I will discuss with Town Manager and report back.

Unanimous approval of minutes from 4/1/21 meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm