

Town of Hartford Committee on Racial Equity and Inclusion

Wednesday February 3, 2021

6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

In Attendance: Allene Swienckowski (She/Her), Joe Major (He/Him), Nancy Russell (She/Her), John Hall (He/Him), Sara Campbell (She/Her), Ann Raynolds (She/Her), Russell North (He/Him)

6:00 PM Call to Order

- Approve meeting minutes from Jan. 20, 2021
- **MOTION:** Ann moves to approve minutes 1/20/21 - seconded John- passed unanimously
- **MOTION:** Ann Moves to form a subcommittee to look into harassment, death threats, and cyber bullying of anyone living, working, or visiting Hartford and report back to HCORIE at the February 17 meeting for a larger discussion of possible action.
- **AMMENDMENT:** John Hall - Executive committee to look into above (Chair, Vice Chair, Clerk)
- **AMMENDED MOTION:** Ann Moves: The executive committee to prepare a discussion for 2/17 around forming a sub-committee to look into harassment, death threats, and cyber bullying of anyone living, working, or visiting Hartford and report back to HCORIE for a larger discussion of possible action. John Hall seconded. Passed Unanimously

6:05 PM Acknowledge Community Members

- Input from community members
- In attendance: Audrey Devost, Brigid and Molly Armbrust, Pat Autilio, Eliza Mahoney, Coach Christie, Kim Souza

6:27 PM Break out into subcommittees

6:52 PM Subcommittee rejoin full. Committee

- **Policy**
 - Ongoing work - review of HR policies, comparison of policy accessibility to other similar Vermont towns.
 - Reminder of Google group rules - Ann will send out in separate email.
 - Quorum - discussion around if quorum changes with an open committee seat.
- **Housing**
 - Unhoused community - discussion of vouchers offered through the state for hotel rooms. There are community members who do not want to take that offer. More than housing is needed, there are mental and public health concerns. A much larger system of support is needed.
 - Spoke with Brett Mayfield, medical liaison to the town, who is also involved in the voucher program. Would like to have him and Michael Redman join a meeting.
 - Affordable housing for BIPOC and underserved members of the community. Gov. Scott is trying to push 20 million towards housing, how do we get some of that money in Hartford? How do we get landlords to build/rehab existing housing.
- **Education**
 - Spoke with the students for their feedback. Would like to see more in the curriculum around these issues.
 - Don't feel like there has been much change in this area at the high school.

- Students are currently working on a video for the advisory period.
- Working on a survey asking students about DEI topics.
- Discussed the resource guide - for students and staff and parents and community

7:12 PM Discussion about the Charge

- Members joined the School Board meeting on 1/27 and discussed changes and intent of item V in the HCOREI Charge.
 - *The HCOREI Committee is charged with gathering information and making recommendations to the School Board and Selectboard, coordinating programming, and engaging in public dialogue for the purpose of:*
 - *V: Supporting the Town of Hartford and Hartford School District ~~through increasing cultural sensitivity~~ by cultivating greater understanding of the concepts of diversity, inclusion, equity, implicit bias, white privilege, white supremacy and systemic racism.*
- **MOTION:** Ann moves to take this updated language to the joint meeting of the School and Select Boards on Tuesday 2/9. Sara Seconded. Passed Unanimously
 - John Hall to present.
- Next School Board Community Meeting 2/24
 - HCOREI is invited to the outreach meeting monthly. The Board is focused on more outreach to the larger community as work continues on the strategic plan and beyond as well as the organization of the school board and ensuring its policies are current, accessible, and inclusive.

7:28 PM Discussion

- New Business - none at this time

Discussion - How can we more approachable to members of the community? - not discussed

7:32 PM Adjournment

Motion: John moves to adjourn