

Town of Hartford Committee on Racial Equity & Inclusion
Wednesday, February 22nd, 2019
7pm to 8:30pm

In Attendance: Michelle Boleski, John Hall, Sara Campbell, Allene Swienckowski, Kim Souza, Jameson Davis, Ann Reynolds
Community Member in attendance: Joan _____

There was a brief discussion regarding the status and potential amendments to [Vermont Statute 1455](#). Jameson will keep the group informed of any progress.

Review and pass minutes from the previous meeting. Allene made motion to pass minutes, Kim seconded. Vote unanimously passed.

RFP Process: Sara, Kim, John met with the Town Manager about the RFP for the Strategic Plan for Equity & Inclusion. It was suggested that a sub-committee could work to create the content for the RFP. There are templates and previous documents that the sub-committee can use to format the Request for Proposals.

Allene made a motion to form a subcommittee of Kim, Sara, John, to draft an RFP for submission to the Schoolboard and Select Board to review/approve in the development of a strategic plan as charged. Ann seconded. Passed Unanimously.

Panel Update: Attorney General, TJ Donovan's, Panel on Bias Incidents, Hate Crimes & Race at Vermont Law School was scheduled for Feb 20, and subsequently postponed. No date has been chosen yet to reschedule.

Jameson noted a non-related plan for the AG to visit the State Bar Association at VLS on March 12. The event is open to the public. 12:45pm. March 12.

HCOREI may or may not opt to pursue a similar panel. We will see how quickly/if the AG's office reschedules and revisit after the RFP process is underway. It would be good to host something of this nature in the Town of Hartford.

Ann suggested that our efforts would be better served by focusing on the legislature and actions/amendments of VS 1455 than to work on the panel at this time.

No motions were made. We will continue the discussion.

Table Update: Coffee with Committees, 9-10am, Saturday, March 2nd at the Hartford High School Gym. Kim & Michelle will attend. Sara, John & Allene are unconfirmed, but will try to attend. Kim will print up some simple display/poster relating to HCoreI's charge & some resources and we will answer any questions that community members might have about our work.

General Updates: Ann gave a preview flier for a workshop at Kilton Library in West Lebanon, NH called Toward Racial Healing, sponsored by The Committee About Racial Justice (CARJ), United Valley Interfaith Project (UVIP) & Showing up for Racial Justice (SURJ VT/NH). There will be two sessions facilitated by Gabrielle Lucke & Theodosia Cook: Saturdays, April 6 + May 4, 10am-12pm. More information & sharable media will be forthcoming.

Michelle is meeting with the Director of Tourism and Vermont Chamber of Commerce to consider ways to attract more people of color to host their weddings in Vermont. Jameson noted that it would be helpful to think about other types of businesses that would also benefit from more POCs coming to the area. Michelle will report back after her meeting.

Sara, Allene & John have discussed ways to initiate some kind of 'supper club' to gather and mingle with diverse members of the community. Sara will continue researching this opportunity and report back. Hope is to host a preliminary event in spring 2019.

Ann shared an event that The Racial Justice Alliance is hosting in Burlington, VT called "What Equity Looks Like". Sunday, Feb 24, 3-5pm.

Allene is running for the Board of Directors of the Coop Food Stores!

The motion to adjourn at 8:27pm was made by Allen. Kim Seconded.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Souza, Clerk.