

MEETING MINUTES

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Task Force (EDIT) Committee

Via Zoom

Thursday, January 13, 2022

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Andrea Fonseca 6:33pm.

Attendance:

Present:

Andrea Fonseca Co-Chairman
Jonathan Tropp Vice -Chairman
Danny Wisneski
David Rosenburg
Tara Figueroa
Lincoln Johnson
Marty Isaac (Alternate)
Zdena Quinn (Alternate)

Not Present:

Public Session

Correspondence

Approval of Minutes

a. December 16, 2022

b. January 13, 2022

Old business

c. Community Forum

Publicity and Marketing Strategies

Debrief

d. Schedule for stakeholder invitations

e. Tabled Items

.Approval of Minutes: November 18, 2021

[DataHaven](#) Review

New business

f. Fairfield Proposal
Adjournment

Also Present:

James Cordone, Town Attorney

Not Present:

Dede Robinson

Chairman Fonseca introduced the topic of the meeting and called each member of the public to speak.

“ How have you felt included in Trumbull, and how have you felt excluded in Trumbull?”

Public Comment:

Dr. Challa Flemming, 19 Coventry Lane. Dr. Flemming believes that the town of Trumbull is more diverse than it was 10 years ago. She believes that the children’s section of the Trumbull Public Library has made her children feel welcoming. Dr. Flemming suggested that Trumbull Town Hall show recognition for the holiday of Kwanza by displaying the Kinara candle in the front of the town hall building. In addition, Dr. Flemming suggested that the Town Hall recognized Juneteeth, Hispanic Heritage Month, and Asian Heritage Month. She also shared with the group that she had recently visited a local park and observed a park ranger slowly driving by her car to inspect it.

Therese Gray, 1919 Huntington Turnpike. Ms. Gray moved to town in August 2021 and believes that overall, she has had a pleasant experience in town. However, there was one incident where she felt excluded in town. Ms. Gray let the group know that on November 14, 2021, her husband was walking through the parking lot of St. Catherine of Siena when two police officers approached him. The police officers stopped him and asked for his identification. She believes that police officers stopped her husband because of his race. Subsequently, Ms. Gray reached out to Ms. Colon of St. Catherine of Siena Parish to address this situation but did not receive a response. Ms. Colon is the only contact of St. Catherine’s of Siena Parish. Ms. Gray learned that the police received a call from a member of the public

who reported suspicious activity. Ms. Gray would like to know the rule on false reports from the public and if there are any repercussions.

Mr. Wisneski suggested that Ms. Gray contact Chairman Fonseca and have a follow-up meeting on further discussion of her incident in town before or at the January 20, 2022

Chairman Fonseca believes that stakeholders can be contacted further regarding this matter for further clarification of police policy and training.

Rita McDougall, 51 Sunrise Road. Ms. McDougall believes that her experience in town has been quite pleasant. She has lived in town since 1993. Ms. McDougall pointed out that her husband had a similar experience to Ms. Gray's husband that happened 28 years ago.

Ellie Grasso, 24 Indian Road. Ms. Grasso believes that her family has had a pleasant experience in town. Her children attended Frenchtown School and liked that there was a multiracial committee in place that made the school feel welcoming to all students. Ms. Grasso had a concern about stating her address and wanted to know the reasoning behind this.

Attorney Cardone of the Town of Trumbull stated that the purpose of giving one's name and address is for public record and is a requirement of governmental organizations in town.

Catherine Pulliam, 20 Lincoln Street. On September Ms. Pulliam was visiting Twin Brooks Park with her children and her children were shunned by other children and their parents while they were on the playground. Ms. Pulliam noted that her children are multiracial and believed that they were being singled out because of this fact.

Courtney Lewis, 43 Partridge Lane. Ms. Lewis believes that her experiences in town have been pleasant, however there was an incident where her children have not felt included. Ms. Lewis' son is in the 6th grade and on one occasion has been called a racial slur. Ms. Lewis did not expand on that experience.

Members of EDIT thanked her for sharing her experience as it was very emotional.

Joy Colon, 5452 Main Street. Ms. Colon, as a member of Town Council and Trumbull public school teacher believes that this meeting is important, and EDIT has provided a very welcoming forum to facilitate these important conversations.

Scot Ker, 12 Lynnbrook Road. Mr. Ker has lived in town since 2000. Mr. Ker believes that as a white male he could not think of any experience of racial discrimination. However, He believes that there are a

dozen of microgroups in the town of Trumbull. Mr. Ker believes that Trumbullites are intense, competitive, and political.

Ashleigh Pascarella, 9 Southgate Road. Ms. Pascarella, a former EDIT board member, has had a pleasant experience in town. However, there was one experience where police showed up at her friend's house, who was fixing his car in his own driveway. The police were investigating based on a call from the public. She believes this is the reason having these meetings having these conversations is so important.

Dr. Challa Flemmig, 19 Conventry Lane. Dr. Flemmig believes that these experiences are more common than one can really know. She believes that it is encouraging that the town has become more diverse, but it is only the beginning of the conversation.

Mr. Isaac believes that it is easy to be unaware of these experiences of others, but it is important to hear from the public to understand. He hopes to hear about more of these experiences. Mr. Isaac commented that it is unclear what the rules of engagement are for police officers when investigating reports from the public. Are police required to respond to every request from the public? How do they make the decision whether to respond or not?

Chairman Fonseca wanted to let the public know that all EDIT meetings are open public and if unable to attend and still interested in sharing, please send an email to edit@trumbullct.gov.

Ms. Figueroa thanked all the members of the public who joined and participated in the conversation. It is incredibly important to the committee to hear from the public.

Mr. Tropp looks forward to discussing these experiences in future meetings. He believes that it will be worthwhile to have a discussion with the Trumbull Chief of Police about policy and procedures of the department regarding investigation of reports from the public. Mr. Isaac believes that this is an important next step in creating solutions to a problem in town. The rest of the taskforce agreed that this is something that can be implemented in the near future.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Tropp, seconded by Mr. Wisneski , adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Submitted by,

Chris Hayes