

Draft of the Minutes, EDIT Meeting of April 20, 2023, on Zoom

Present: Chair, Jonathan Tropp, Challa Flemming, Vice Chair, Rick Bolton, David Rosenburg, Tara Figueroa

Absent: Kalim Jan, Dan Wiseneski

Also Present: James Cordone, Town of Trumbull Attorney, William Chin, Town of Trumbull Technology Director, Joanne Glasser Orenstein, Clerk, Janet Epstein

Mr. Tropp called the meeting to order at 7:32pm. Mr. Tropp welcomed Ms. Flemming, noting he is delighted to have her on the committee, and she had been a guest multiple times. The other members of EDIT also welcomed her. Mr. Tropp explained in the absence of a Chair, he had been appointed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and roll call completed.

Correspondence: Mr. Tropp noted an e-mail was received from Ms. Epstein and circulated before the meeting. She shared resources for Diversity Training.

Public Comment: Ms. Epstein was present and reported her address as 76 Old Dyke Road. She stated her resources focused on racial justice; one in particular that she feels is noteworthy is Joe Brummer, his work can be found at [joebrummer.com](http://joebrummer.com). She also noted there is a new Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging VP at Fairfield University.

Mr. Bolton made a motion to accept the Minutes of March 16, 2023, Ms. Figueroa seconded.

VOTE: Ms. Flemming abstained, all others in favor.

Old Business: Essay Contest

Mr. Tropp reported the good news was a notice was published in the Trumbull Times (thanks to Mr. Wisneski); the bad news was there have been no submissions. There was also an announcement on the EDIT Facebook page (thanks to Ms. Figueroa). Mr. Tropp circulated the announcement to all of the schools in Trumbull, but Dr. Semmel has advised that the Trumbull Public Schools did not circulate it. Dr. Semmel requested that, in the future, his office be consulted on the essay prompt and contest. There has also been no word from other schools in Trumbull. In light of this, there was a long discussion about whether to go forward with the contest. The decision was made to keep the due date at April 30, and evaluate any submissions in May.

Research on Diversity Training

Mr. Tropp feels it is up to EDIT to go back to the drawing board and find potential trainers and present it to the Town Council. If the intention is to go to municipal department heads, they need to look beyond people from academia. Town Council is looking to EDIT to do the leg work. Mr. Tropp asked each member of the committee to take one action to investigate resources, and it will be back on the agenda for May.

#### Collaboration with the Library

Mr. Tropp forwarded an e-mail from the Adult Programming people suggesting ideas for collaboration. These ideas included a summer reading list, a book club and/or a panel discussion on censorship. They also talked about an essay prompt, or a quick post that can be put up in the Library. It was agreed to move ahead on all. The suggested reading list that was put together a few years ago will be looked at and added to. Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to provide the list by the end of April, Ms. Figueroa seconded. VOTE: All in favor.

A little time will be needed for the Book Club, Mr. Tropp suggested to find dates to propose next month. A good week for the panel discussion would be during Censorship Week, which is October 1-7. Ms. Figueroa made a motion to suggest that week, Ms. Fleming seconded. VOTE: All in favor.

Mr. Bolton made a motion to put a visual prompt up at the Library, on what does inclusion mean to me. Ms. Flemming seconded. VOTE: All in favor. Mr. Tropp will follow up with the Library.

#### Collaboration with Historical Society

There has been no response from the Historical Society. Mr. Tropp will follow up.

#### Trumbull Times

Mr. Tropp said this should be a standing item each month.

#### Event Planning

There is no interest in participating in Trumbull day. Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to have a special meeting of EDIT on Thursday May 4 at 7:30 to discuss participation in the Arts Festival. Mr. Bolton Seconded. VOTE: All in favor.

#### Value Statement for Town.

The Town Council Chair wants a formal submission n in writing. Mr. Tropp will do it.

#### New Business:

Mr. Tropp requested tabling the discussion of the Data Haven information for next month. Ms. Figueroa made the motion to table, Mr. Bolton seconded. VOTE: All in favor.

The next report to the Town Council will be June or July.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Flemming, seconded by Mr. Bolton. VOTE: All in favor at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Glasser Orenstein  
April 23, 2023

