

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION COMMISSION MINUTES
7:00 p.m. THURSDAY June 13, 2024

Present:

X	David Martin, liaison		Lingya Zhou
X	Melissa Kaplan Morse, co-chair	X	Sandra Hinds, clerk
X	Sunanda Pepalla		Suravi Bhatia, student
X	Zayd Dhasthageer, student		Wanjiku Gachugi, liaison
X	Diane Randolph Jones, co-chair		

Meeting called to order at 7:09 p.m.

I. Regular Business

1. Notes from the Co-Chairs

On June 14 at 8:00 p.m. there will be a drag show at the Acton Recreational Center for teens and adults. On June 15 there will be an Acton/Westford Pride Festival from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

2. Updates from the DEI Director. Wanjiku could not attend the meeting so her report was read to the commissioners.

-There has been one reported incident of bias. The incident happened in April and is now resolved.

-I am working on a date for the documentary screening. It will likely take place in the Fall.

-Town department and division heads completed the last four-part workshops on DEI Strategic Leadership.

- I will be hiring a DEI intern for the summer.

-I am still looking for a volunteer for the DEI office.

- There are several events happening next week for Juneteenth.

- The Silver Unicorn will be hosting a story time of the book “Juneteenth Is” by Natasha Triplett and Daniel J O’Brien. The book will be read by Raquel Majeski of Kelly’s Tales.
- The Discovery Museum is having Story Walk “Juneteenth for Mazie” by Flody Cooper. It will be June 14 to June 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

-Acton has an artist in residence! Acton’s Economic Development Office is proud to present Chichi Enu, a rising star in the world of opera. Chichi will bring her talents and unique perspective to Acton to share our theme of “Untold Story” through music and storytelling. She will be performing:

- June 15 at 12:00 p.m. at the Acton Pride Festival. It is a free event, no RSVP needed.

- June 21 at 5:00 p.m., Keynote Opera Performance - Interactive Opera Concert at NARA Park. It is a free event but advance ticket reservation is required:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/untold-stories-of-our-region-featuring-operatic-soloist-chichi-enu-tickets-906028925907>

II. Commissioners' Update and Discussion

- **David** reported that Acton celebrated its first Juneteenth event.

There will be a Juneteenth celebration at the Robbins House in Concord, MA.

The Diwali Festival will be on October 20, 2024, 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Boxborough.

The Select Board needs to recruit more members for the various town boards.

Linga has decided that she will not be renewing her term as a commissioner. **We are thankful to Linga for her many years of service on the DEIC.**

- Follow-up discussion on Volunteer Coordinator Form Discussion—

We had a very good discussion about the form. Melissa will summarize the comments and send them to the commissioners before our next meeting.

- Upcoming meetings and planning.

We decided that we will continue to meet on the second Thursday of each month.

III. Closing Items

Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Sunanda moved and Zayd seconded to approve the minutes of March 2024.

Unanimously approved.

Confirm upcoming meeting – Thursday, September 12, 2024

Adjourn

Zayd moved and Sunada seconded to adjourn.

Unanimously approved

Adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

