

Indigenous People's Celebration Committee
Tuesday, February 5, 2019
Public Health Building – Small Conference Room
3:30PM-5:00PM

Minutes

Present: Kea van der Ziel, Vishni Samaraweera, Raquel Halsey, Caitlin Starr

Public: Ruthann Sneider, Arthur Conquest, Bruce Wolff, Elizabeth Buhl

1. Review of the Charge
 - a. Version reviewed was labeled DRAFT – need the final version.
 - b. Need 2 more voting members that must live in Brookline.

2. Recruiting more people for the Committee
 - a. Brian Myles declined
 - b. Nora Dooley does not have time to be a full voting member.
 - c. Kea will reach out to someone from Cultural Survival.
 - d. Arthur volunteered to go to the Select Board to be a full member for now.
 - e. Vishni will see if there are any Indigenous students at BHS that may be interested.
 - f. Caitlin will create a Recruiting flier with contact info and will distribute at the Lunar New Year Event and Pop Up Town Hall at the Teen Center.

3. Initial thoughts on what form an event should take
 - a. Ruthann shared an idea about wanting to go through the Schools; such as kids bring in Legos (or another item that is useful – gloves, hats, etc.) for a Town wide collection and mailed to a reservation location. Could be called “Building Bridges of Friendship”. Something that can be participated in annually by both children and adults.
 - b. Discussed reviewing the Town’s K-8 School curriculum to see what the Town is teaching. Caitlin will send out to everyone what Ruthann shared with Caitlin and Kea.
 - c. A more interactive event – Raquel shared some past events that her organization has held in Cambridge in the past; concerts, screening of PBS documentary, large signage throughout Town, having an author talk.
 - i. Discussed: something at the Farmer’s Market, use of the Library on the Sunday prior, potential speakers: Lisa Brooks (UMass Amherst), Philip Doloria (Native Historian at Harvard), cooking demonstration.
 - ii. Start with a manageable event.
 - iii. See about reserving Hunneman Hall for Sunday 10/13/19 - Combination of music, food, presentation and questions.
 1. Dance troupe – Marsha Parilla – gives space to Indigenous People through dance.
 - iv. Maybe event at HS?

- v. Another event in collaboration with the schools?
 - vi. Collaborate with Wide Lens: screening and talk?
4. Possible Discussion of incorporating land acknowledgement at the beginning of Town Meeting.
 - a. Would be done the first day of Town Meeting.
 - b. Kea will discuss with Raul.
 - c. Something this committee should support after it is brought to the Town Moderator.
 5. Changing the MA Flag and Seal
 - a. Kea is thinking about opening a warrant article on this (to support State efforts).
 6. Next Meeting
 - a. The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 5th at 3:30PM in the Public Health Building – Small Conference Room**