

## **Brookline Commission for Diversity, Inclusion and Community Relations Meeting**

February 20, 2019 6:30-8:30pm Public Health Building – Denny Room (Lower Level)

**Commissioners present:** Jessica Chicco (arrived later), Joan Lancourt, Robert Lepson, Kelly Race, Kea van der Ziel

**Liaisons present:** Suzanne Federspiel (School Committee), Michael Gropman (Police), Lloyd Gellineau (Office of Diversity Inclusion and Community Relations & CDO), Bernard Greene (Select Board)

**Not present:** Sandy Batchelder, Malcolm Cawthorne, Sean Jaynes, Vishni Samaraweera, (BHS)

Members of the public attending: Neil Gordon, Bobbie Knable

Meeting called to order at 6:33

### **Naming Committee Warrant Article**

Neil Gordon presented on a draft warrant article which would expand the Naming Review Committee to include a member of the CDICR and the number of members from five to “up to seven”. Neil emphasized the amount of work and time required for a Committee member should be quite modest. Neil was trying to gauge the reaction of Commissioners to see if there were any objections/suggestions.

### **Recent and Upcoming Events and Meetings**

Lloyd encouraged the commissioners to attend the Advisory Committee review of the proposed budget for the Office of DICR on Thursday, Feb. 21 at 6:30.

There is an upcoming four week program called “Serving on Groups” that begins next Thursday, Feb 28 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Trustman Apartments Community Room at 341 St. Paul Street. This program is open to all Brookline residents and funded by the Brookline Community Foundation.

Lloyd also mentioned the deadline for the Annual Asian American essay contest sponsored by the Brookline Asian American Family Network and the Brookline Diversity, Inclusion and Community Relations Office is February 28<sup>th</sup>. The contest is open to high school students living in Brookline or attending Brookline High School.

There was a pop-up Town Hall event at the teen center this past Wednesday, February 13. About 15-20 teens participated.

There was a viewing of the Civil Rights video (same one presented at the MLK day event) by approximately 50 Brookline staff members on February 13.

The Town participated in the recent Northeastern University job fair.

Michael Gropman invited all members of the commission to a “Community Roll Call” at the Brookline Police Department on March 13 from 6:30 – 9:00. This will be an interactive open house type event during which BPD officers will lead discussions and provide a chance for participants to experience de-escalation techniques, and crisis management scenarios. Invitees will be the Select Board, Town Administrator, CDICR, and the Advisory Committee.

Michael also mentioned the annual Teen Center fundraising gala on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Art created by teens and police officers will be on display at the event.

Suzanne Federspiel noted that there was a great, diverse audience at a recent high school basketball game. We could possibly use a venue like this for a pop-up Town Hall.

### **Updates from Liaisons**

Bernard Greene discussed the recent Civil Service decision on Gerald Alston. The Select Board has not made a decision on whether to appeal. The Select Board will be discussing additional training within the Fire Department. The Fire Chief will step up to address the current culture and the recruitment of women and people of color.

Budget season is in full swing. We should start early in thinking about funding for next year's budget.

The Town will also be putting an override and/or debt exclusion on the May ballot. Will need funding for a possible Newbury College purchase (which could be a joint venture with others). Will also need funding for Driscoll School and the Baldwin School construction. There is a committee that exists to study these issues and determine the best course moving forward.

NETA will be opening for non-medical cannabis sales within the next month. The CDICR could be involved in steering additional licenses to those who have been adversely affected by drug enforcement.

### **Discussion on Anti-Racism Summit**

Joan gave a report on the event which took place on February 10 at Temple Ohabei Shalom. There are about 26 groups in Brookline doing racial justice work. The summit was an effort to bring all these groups together to share what they're working on. Members of the People of Color Caucus, organized by Deborah Brown, participated, as did other groups like the GARE Community Group. The 65 to 70 participants split into 7 interest groups. The interest groups each set SMART goals focused on outcomes and named a temporary convener. Subcommittees may begin to meet monthly. A second summit is planned for the first week in June with a third planned for October or November. Commissioners also had a discussion on how to recruit possible candidates to the commission, and especially increase representation of people of color on all Town boards and commissions.

### **Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the January 16, 2019 meeting were approved.

### **Update from Employment Diversity Committee**

Commissioners briefly reviewed the annual EEO data for Town employees, updated as of December 2018. Commissioners discussed the idea of sharing the data to targeted groups, such as Town Meeting members and neighborhood associations. The Employment Diversity committee will be meeting with each department head to talk about the EEO statistics and recruitment activity. The next meeting will be with the HR Director for the Schools on March 12 at 1:30pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35.