

## Indigenous People's Day Celebration Committee Meeting

Tuesday 2/25/2020

Public Health Building, Small Conference Room

### Minutes

Committee members present: Arthur Conquest, Raquel Halsey, Larry Onie, Felina Robinson, Kea van der Ziel, Caitlin Starr; Raul Fernandez, Select Board liaison; Jean-Luc Pierite, president of board of NAICOB

Meeting called to order 3:10 PM

1. Minutes of 10/8/2019 approved unanimously
2. Review of IPD of 2019
  - a. Based on feedback of public – people loved the food, crafts and vendors. Particular highlight was Jean-Luc's storytelling and active participation of the audience.
  - b. Negatives were difficulty in nailing down food and program due to competing programs in other areas of greater Boston. It all came together at the last minute but not without a lot of effort.
3. Future planning
  - a. Need to address what we are trying to accomplish, education of residents of Brookline, presentation of Native American culture, understanding your neighbors, affecting public policy?
  - b. Several suggestions that we avoid having a celebration on IPD itself as there are so many competing events in the area due to rising popularity of IPD. Instead have a week-long series of events, looking at our contacts to build partnerships, such as:

Native American art exhibit - Caitlin has contacts with Jennie Tsai, Raquel with Matika Wilbur

Presentations at each Brookline school with schools to organize their own events in concert with NAICOB if needed

Films at libraries or the Coolidge Corner Theatre – Caitlin has contact there

Book event at the Booksmith featuring Native American authors

Involve Small Business Association, Rotary, Chamber of Commerce

Involve restaurants highlighting Indigenous cuisine, Manoa from last year does pop-ups

Arrange for short course, perhaps one night, with Adult Ed – Arthur to contact re deadline for fall

Possible cartography exhibit with Margaret Pierce, possibly at one of libraries

Involvement of Brookline Historical Society, what resources are available – Larry to contact

Discussion at Senior Center between Native elders and participants in Center activities –  
Kea to contact Julie Washburn

- c. Importance of elevating the conversation to be more inclusive around Indigenous issues.  
IPD Committee as convener of possible topics including:  
Stewardship of the earth – could we get Green Caucus involved?  
Indigenous People and the talking stick  
Conversations around Indigenous values in general  
Urban Indian populations
4. Importance of collaborating with NAICOB emphasized. NAICOB has many interesting activities planned. Raquel and Jean-Luc will share the calendar and Caitlin will publicize to our town lists.

Next meeting scheduled for 3/31 from 3-4:30 at NAICOB, 105 So. Huntington Ave, Jamaica Plain

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 PM