

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (“DEI”) Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, April 27, 2023**

**6:00 PM**

**Longmeadow Adult Center, Conference Room**

**211 Maple Road, Longmeadow, MA 01106**

This was the second meeting of the newly formed DEI Advisory Committee.

Committee Members Present – Chair-Dr. AnnMarie Martinez, Clerk-Tammye Erb, Saul Finestone, Dr. Ronnie Leavitt, Gabriel Mokwuah, Chris Morris, Stephan Platzer, Linda Preston, Beverly Sager.

Guests Present - None

1. Chair Dr. Martinez called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM. The meeting was an open meeting where public comment was offered.
2. Public Comment: Mr. Platzer spoke, identifying himself as a member of the public, stating that he thought that DEI signs should be displayed at the weekly Friday afternoon standouts organized by himself as a Longmeadow Anti Racism Coalition (“LARC”) initiative.
3. Committee Comments: The discussion of Mr. Platzer’s topic was moved to the meeting’s agenda under New Business.
4. Old Business
  - a. Approval of Meeting Minutes  
*A motion was made by Dr. Leavitt to approve the March 29, 2023, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Morris. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 9-0.*
5. New Business
  - a. The scope and charge of the DEI Advisory Committee was reviewed, based on the Town’s DEI statement. The following examples are representative of activities this committee might assist with:
    - Gathering examples of firsthand experiences from people who live or work in Longmeadow. We also need to consider ways in which we will disseminate some shared stories of lived experience.
    - Provide training to interested, non-governmental groups in Longmeadow.
    - Meet and if agreed assist local businesses to increase diversity of their staffing and work toward the goal of being a town where everyone feels they belong.
    - Engage with neighboring towns to provide related programs and/or training events.
    - Appoint liaisons with town entities that may be addressing similar DEI needs. (See below).

A motion was made by Dr. Leavitt to to have 2 DEI liaisons assigned to other Longmeadow committees. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Erb. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 9-0. Ms. Preston will be the liaison with the Longmeadow School Committee and Mr. Morris will be the liaison with the Town of Longmeadow (Select Board, Town manager, etc.).

- b. Chair Martinez provided us with a memorandum suggesting general categories of activities that the committee can engage in (see attached). Chair Dr. Martinez charged all committee members to come to the next meeting with a list of specific recommendations/ activities that the committee should consider prioritizing.

The members unanimously decided to meet one time per month, on the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Thursday of each month, but may move the meeting date if necessary, beginning with Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 6:00 PM. The members wish to share contact information with one another.

- c. There was a discussion regarding placing signs that include the words *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion* and the acronym “DEI” at the weekly Friday afternoon LARC standouts, that are LARC anti-racism-themed, regular events. After considerable discussion, for example not creating a false impression that the committee is sponsoring the events, for the avoidance of doubt, and other varied opinions, Ms. Leavitt moved, and Mr. Morris seconded a motion stating that it is not in the best interest of the DEI committee to have DEI signs at the LARC standouts. The vote was 6 in favor, 2 against (Ms. Sager, Mr. Platzer), 1 abstention (Mr. Mokwuah).

6. Adjournment. At 7:30 PM, Mr. Finestone moved, and Mr. Morris seconded, that we adjourn. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 9-0.

Respectfully submitted to Clerk Mrs. Erb, and the committee, for review and approval.

*Dr. Ronnie Leavitt*