Civil Rights Committee Workshop Minutes

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

6:45 p.m.

APPROVED

As a result of the COVID-19 virus, the Civil Rights Committee conducted the meeting via Zoom remote access as provided by Maine law. Zoom allowed all Civil Rights Committee members and members of the public to hear all discussion as required by law.

Present: : Miriam Esch Levanos, Dheeraj Khare, Jim Sparks, Melanie Thomas, Rafina Young, Rachel Davis (Director, Thomas Memorial Library, Committee Secretary)

Absent: Keyla Alston-Griffin, Kim Monaghan

1. Welcome and Call the Meeting to Order: Melanie called to order at 6:51 p.m.
2. Acceptance of minutes from the February 10 workshop: Melanie made a motion to to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Dheeraj; unanimously approved.
3. Committee Charge: The committee worked on finalizing the draft charge for a standing committee that had been created at the previous workshop.
   1. Discussion about whether “public safety” belonged in point 1.b. “Advocate for Advocate for DEI with respect to housing, transportation, public accommodation, and access to Town services.” The concept of “public safety” in terms of keeping the town safe was implied in the other statements. As Public Safety, as a department, was going to be addressed in the examination of Town Departments, some felt it was not necessary to include specifically here. Melanie made a motion to vote on whether to include “public safety” in this point; seconded by Dheeraj.
      1. Rafina: no
      2. Melanie: yes
      3. Jim: no
      4. Dheeraj: no
      5. No=3; yes=1. “Public safety” will not be included in this statement.
   2. Jim made a motion to accept the final wording of the standing charge as revised during this workshop; seconded by Dheeraj; unanimously approved.
4. Committee Name: there was a review and discussion of names for the Committee as previously proposed by various committee members in the past. Jim made a motion to propose “Cape Elizabeth Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (CEDEIC)” as the name for a standing committee; seconded by Rafina; unanimously approved.
5. Presentation to the Town Council: Melanie will make a brief 10-15 presentation to the Town Council about what the Committee has been doing, and our proposal to create a standing committee.
6. Meeting schedule: tabled until the next meeting
7. Next meeting: March 10 at 6:45 p.m.
8. Other Business: none
9. Adjourn: Melanie made a motion to adjourn the workshop; seconded by Jim; unanimously approved. Workshop adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rachel Davis, 3/2/21