

Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2021

Meeting Opened at 7:01PM by John Coelho (Chair) inviting the Committee to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Joan Bannon, Nancy Cook, John Coelho (Chair), Sofia Fernandez, Ana McCarthy, Patrice Whitehouse, Stacey Irvine, Jane Conklin, Deborah Ablordeppey.

Regrets: Sofia Chaddha, Goutham Puppala

Minutes of the Meeting:

- Pledge of Allegiance.
- Opening Comments by John Coelho (Chair) – John commended Committee members for their candor, open dialogue, and achievement of a key milestone in delivering a comprehensive set of clear recommendations to the Township Committee in 5 months. He noted the Committee had modeled respectful behaviors over this process.
- Additional comments invited by the Chair from Committee acknowledged the challenge of creating something new, the continuing need for all volunteers to work together to continue to build harmony and maintain unity considering appropriate tools in the next phase of the Committee.
- Motion for approval of Minutes from prior meeting was moved and seconded.
- Committee reviewed the deck (slide-by- slide), summarizing the product of three workstreams making only final refinements intended for the Township Committee scheduled for June 15, 2021 session and to be submitted before June 1 enabling adequate review.
- Public Comments were received from two members of the public and acknowledged by the Chair and Township Committee designee Joan Harris, related to the return to live, in person meetings with the shift in State guidance on indoor restrictions.
- Old Business – None
- New Business –Deborah Ablordeppey will be circulating a proposed plan and specific timings for a summer gathering.
- Final summary comments by Committee Members: members expressed their general satisfaction noting measurable progress as a consensus. In closing, the Chair wished the Committee and attending public for the weekend and the significance of Memorial Day, recalling the considerable sacrifices of veterans for the freedoms we enjoy.
- With no further business, the Committee adjourned with the next meeting scheduled for **June 24th. At 7pm** with members of the public invited to attend in person or Zoom.

Any member of the public is encouraged to reach out to the Committee via this forum or directly to Committee members to voice opinion and/or suggestions.

Submitted by: John Coelho on behalf of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee