

DANVERS HUMAN RIGHTS & INCLUSION COMMITTEE
Meeting of Thursday, December 17, 2020

In accordance with the Governor's March 12 Order suspending provisions of Open Meeting Law and to promote public health and social distancing, a meeting of the Danvers Human Rights & Inclusion Committee was held on Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 7:00 PM via WebEx video conference call.

Committee members present: Dutrochet Djoko, Chair; Paul Pawlak, Vice Chair; Robert Gamer; William Graham; Donna Hopkins; Sally Kerans; Jorge Sanchez-Salazar

Liaisons Present: Eric Crane, School Committee; David Mills, Select Board

Staff Present: Eileen Page, Human Resources

Not Present: Charles Desmond; David McKenna; Lt. Robert Sullivan, Danvers Police; Cathy Sullivan-Bradley; Rev. Douglas Vooyo, Interfaith Partnership

With a quorum present, Mr. Djoko called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

I. October 22, 2020

- *Vote: Mr. Gamer moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Sanchez-Salazar seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

Unity Signs Discussion

The Committee will launch a campaign in spring 2021 to market and sell the Unity Lawn Signs. Anyone interested in buying a sign for a suggested \$10 donation should contact Ms. Hopkins at donnahric@gmail.com.

MLK Subcommittee Update

A one-hour, prerecorded program will air on DCAT on January 18 at 2 PM and 6 PM. Invited speakers include Governor Charlie Baker, Congressman Seth Moulton, Town Manager Steve Bartha, Senator Joan Lovely, Ms. Kerans, Dan Bennet (Select Board Chair) and Mike Powers (Town Meeting Member). The program is planned to have speakers for 5-7-minute increments, intermittent with student artwork and music.

Mr. Gamer shared that the North Shore Unitarian Universalist Church is also promoting the event.

Bumper Sticker Contest Finalist Judging

31 entries were received for the Bumper Sticker Art Contest. The Subcommittee, consisting of Mr. Gamer, Mr. Graham, Ms. Hopkins, Lyla Harrod (Director, CARES Director) and Nick Campion (Assistant Director, Recreation) chose five (5) finalists to present to the Committee. Judging was completely anonymous; artwork was labeled as Entry #1, etc. and any references to the artist's age, gender, race, or other identifying information was removed.

The Committee selected Entry #13 for first place, Entry #19 for second place, and Entry #17 for third place. The winners' names will be formally announced during the MLK Day Tribute on January 18. All of the entries will be displayed in an online gallery at the Committees website: <https://www.danversma.gov/bumper-sticker-art-contest/>.

- *Vote: The Committee voted to allocate money for \$200 cash prizes for the second and third place winners. The vote passed 7-0, with Ms. Kerans abstaining.*

Social Media Subcommittee Update

Ms. Page provided a tour of the Committee's new webpage on the Town website. The webpage provides resources and assistance to various populations, suggested reading and viewing, and updates on events. The Subcommittee proposed launching a monthly online newsletter.

Mr. Gamer supported the newsletter. Mr. Sanchez-Salazar and Mr. Crane agreed.

Ms. Hopkins stated she will provide more book suggestions, and would like to see more movies posted to suggested viewing.

Mr. Pawlak stated that he looks forward to taking advantage of the reading list.

Mr. Mills suggested that the site look into LGBTQ publications and news reports to get recommendations on films. He also suggested adding the Netflix movie *Prom* to the list.

Liaison Updates

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The Education Subcommittee met last week, and the student-led Anti-Discrimination Group met virtually this past Tuesday.

The investigation at the High School remains ongoing, and a report should be ready soon. Private information will not be shared, but the School Committee anticipates using the data gathered to make improvements within the schools.

In response to an increase in COVID-19 cases, the Danvers Public Schools have transitioned to a fully remote program. The Schools are seeing an average infection rate of 1-2 new COVID cases per day. Quarantine requirements have kept teachers out of the classroom, and substitutes are not readily available. The decision was made in partnership with the Director of Public Health.

SELECT BOARD

The Welcoming Community Working Group, led by Mr. Bartha, had a very productive first meeting.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Lt. Sullivan was not present.

INTERFAITH PARTNERSHIP

Rev. Vooys was not present.

Recognition of Multifaith Holidays

“With this being our last meeting of 2020, I would like to take a moment to wish the Danvers community a very happy, healthy New Year. I would also like to invite the Committee and residents watching at home to take a moment to appreciate the diverse community we have in Danvers by acknowledging the following upcoming holidays. On December 8, the Buddhist faith celebrates Bodhi Day. From December 10 to 18, the Jewish faith celebrates Chanukah. On December 20, the Pagan faith celebrates Yule, or Winter Solstice. On December 25, the Christian faith celebrates Christmas Day. On December 26, the Zoroastrian faith celebrates Zorthost no Deeso. From December 26 to January 1, Kwanzaa is celebrated.” – Mr. Djoko

New Business

There were no public comments.

- *Vote: Ms. Hopkins moved to adjourn. Mr. Graham seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

*Respectfully submitted by Eileen G. Page
12.18.2020*