Weston DEI Advisory Committee

1.17.22 Meeting

In attendance:

* Gillann
* Melissa
* Margaret
* Martin
* Shara
* Denise
* Jasper
* Vanessa

The committee walked through the proposed Powerpoint presentation for the BOS meeting scheduled for later this week.

It was determined that the original mission statement should be revisited to reduce or mitigate the progress of the group. Members will work together to modify the statement for BOS consideration.

Reviewed the proposed 2022 budget and determined that it should be presented to the BOS.

Edits were made to the Town Diversity statement to remove gender as redundant with gender identity, change religious affiliation to religious beliefs, and to add disability status.

The Administrative Goals section would be renamed DEI OnBoarding goals and would be added to the appendix

The marketing slide would be added

CRB: wanting an update on the town meeting on the formation of the recommendation

The committee agreed that the priorities were Mission, Town Statement, training, marketing, DEI onboarding, budget, train the trainer last

The committee then reviewed the spreadsheet for budget for training for elected, town and appointed officials as well as neighbors as detailed by KJR. The committee decided to add this topic to the BOS agenda so that can ask for partnership and fund-raising.

In terms of changing the Mission statement, the Committee voted and agreed that we need an official recognition that we are authorized to execute events. We should include an update to the mission and vision to include execution of strategic objectives.

Jasper provided an update that Easton is happy to work with us for Juneteenth based on his contact with Devon Wilbie – who serves on Easton’s equivalent of the DEI committee and is a founding member of Easton Pride.

Jasper also communicate a concerning event experienced by his sister who is at WIS. She noted that she was in her music class; in their music books, there was several pages of music devoted to the Civil Rights movement and the pages from all the music books on this subject were torn and illegible. The student brought this to the attention of the music teacher, who stated something to effect that once one student starts ripping pages, kids follow suit. Jasper’s sister checked all the books and they were all the same. It was determined that the DEI Committee should magnify this issue with the school to insure that it is properly addressed.

It was further discussed that Gillann, Melissa, and Vanessa would present various pieces of the presentation on Thursday. The committee then voted and approved the presentation.

8:55 p.m. meeting adjourned