



Diversity Task Group

Date: Monday, January 13, 2020
Time: 6:45-9:00pm
Location: Jefferson Cutter House, 611 Massachusetts Ave, Lower Level

Minutes

Attendance: Katell Guellec, Chris DiMeo, Michael Jacoby Brown, Lynette Culverhouse, Michaiiah Healy, Maren Larkin, Mona Mandal, Brooks Harrelson, Paula Jordan, Shafaq Islam, Megan Crowe-Rothstein, Elizabeth Dray, Rajeev Soneja

1. Welcome and Getting to Know You (10 minutes)
If you could have a super-human ability what would it be (and why)?
2. Approval of December minutes (3 minutes)
Motion to approve by Chris DiMeo and seconded by Katell Guellec.
Motion approved.

3. REPORTS

- a. DTG annual report (3 minutes)

The report was passed around and a link was sent out to view this 2-page report that will be presented as part of Envision Arlington Steering Report to Town Meeting.

- b. Town Warrant Articles: (5-10 minutes) Citizen Review Board & Disability

A draft proposal of the police citizen review board was passed around (submitted by residents of the town) "To see if the Town will form a study group to research and make recommendations to Town Meeting on the role, design, and composition of a potential civilian police review board for the Town."

It was reported that the police liaison's regularly review the police incident reports and police training with the Disability Commission and the Rainbow Commission.

There were no updates to be given about an article supporting persons with disability in town meetings.

c. 2020 Census (3 minutes)

Michaiah reported out a timeline for when the national census was coming (February), the mailings that would follow (March-April), and a visit from census workers (May) if it isn't responded to. The planning department relayed that there is confidentiality on the website, there's no citizenship question, no other branch of government can access the information. Information is analyzed through the Census bureau in block groups and communicated to the president. Kelly in the planning department can come in March/April DTG to answer questions.

d. Running for Office: Steering Committee Chair & Town Meeting members (3 minutes)

It was suggested that is there a way for folks running to ask for signatures and DTG support for those running on a platform that aligns with DTG's mission, goals, and values.

Is there a clergy board?

e. Opt-in email list for events, trainings, and local networks doing diversity and inclusion work (5 minutes)

It's easier to have folks opt-out of emails than to opt in.

One member offered to give his network list to DTG to use to post and to receive information aligned with DTG's mission and purpose.

4. DISCUSSION

a. Vote on DTG theme for the year: Immigration (10 minutes)

DTG should be leading the conversation about whiteness.

Themes will guide our conversations forward and help us decide what events to support.

Everything is connected to immigration.

Can the theme be wide enough and narrow enough that allow us to get things done, to educate, and direct people to act and for the group to feel successful.

The theme of immigration allows us to be aware and to take action.

Having a theme allows us to fill monthly static space and to filter other individuals' ideas when they come to DTG presenting an idea.

Folks will still work on their passion projects- DIG's, getting Bystanding Training in all of APS, helping those with Mass Temp Protective status, Fighting Racism, Rent control....

Vote to approve Immigration as a theme this year: 9 in favor 4 abstaining.

b. January Housing Forum (15 minutes)

We're continuing a possibility of a Town Wide Housing Fair and Forum- a sub committee met to talk about a few major themes for the event, including immigration and focusing on the wide range housing challenges. How do we make DTG more accessible to those physically impaired? (15 minutes)

Ask people what they need. Don't assume what they need. Is it rides? Technology? Afterwards we can be flexible with altering day/time/location.

Chris DiMeo offered to go to anyone's house who needs help setting up Zoom or any electronic meeting service.

c. Update on Rod MacNeal Visit (10 minutes)

We can't support what he's doing if we don't know what he's doing. Mona will reach out again.

EVENTS:

- True Story Theater's January 18, 7:30 pm, Performance at the ACA - "We have a dream: Our hopes and fears"
(<https://truestorytheater.com/event/public-event/>)
- MLK Event: January 20, 7:30 pm at Town Hall
(<https://www.arlingtonma.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/23020/3711?backlist=%2F>)
- Safe Communities Act Hearing, January 24, gather at 8:30 am at Alewife