

Town of East Windsor Diversity Council

Minutes

Monday, October 26, 2020

Location: Meeting held via Zoom

TIME AND LOCATION OF MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7pm by First Selectman Bowsza, acting as the chair.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council member Ana Rivera led the council in the pledge of allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

Members present: Ana Rivera, Mary Mellom, Rick Leborious, Jonny Wyse, Robert Leach (joined at 7:16pm).

Members absent: Joe Blackwood

Guests/Public: First Selectman Jason Bowsza, Deputy First Selectman Marie DeSousa, Nicole Vacila (joined at approximately 7:10pm)

INTRODUCTION

First Selectman Bowsza thanked the members for their willingness to serve in this new capacity and expressed optimism that their advice would serve as a guide for greater inclusion throughout Town government.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Deputy First Selectman DeSousa thanked the commissioners for their interest and involvement.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Comments and introductions

First Selectman Bowsza asked the members of the council to introduce themselves, share a bit about their background, and explain what they were hoping to accomplish through this newly formed council. Council members discussed opportunities to expand a sense of inclusion, potential funding opportunities through the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, and a desire to more fully understand the different demographics and communities of interest within East Windsor.

b) Election of a Chairperson

Ms. Rivera nominated herself, and Mr. Leborious seconded the nomination

Ms. Mellom moved nominations be closed, seconded by Mr. Leborious. **Motion passed unanimously.**

A **unanimous** vote was cast by the council to appoint Ms. Rivera as chair.

c) Establishment of Meeting Schedule

The council decided that they would meet regularly on the 4th Monday of each month at 6pm.

d) Diversity Council Mission and Resolution Discussion

The council reviewed the charge established by the Board of Selectmen. First Selectman Bowsza noted that charge was left intentionally vague, leaving the council the latitude to act broadly.

e) Discussion of Plantation Road Renaming

Council members reviewed and discussed the correspondence submitted to the First Selectman from a resident on Plantation Road, asking that the town consider renaming the road. Council members were interested in further discussing the request, and noted that there are a number of factors to consider, including but not limited to:

- Discussion of the underlying connotation of the word “plantation”
- The history of the naming of the road, and how it comports to definitional usage
- The process that would need to be undertaken to consider the request
- The ramifications of a name change for an existing road
 - Polling affected residents on the road or near by
 - Coordination with the Post Office
 - Deed recordings
 - Any potential role with the LTA
 - Process/procedure for renaming
 - Logistical impact on residents
 - Changing mailing addresses, driver’s licenses, etc

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was included in the meeting packet from Ms. Holmes requesting consideration of renaming Plantation Road.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

First Selectman Bowsza noted that discussions are underway between the Police Department, Board of Education and Town government to host a discussion about inherent biased. This would tentatively take place as the part of the Town’s Annual Town Meeting, scheduled for the month of December. Details are still fluid, but the Council has been invited to participate in co-hosting that event. Council members were receptive to that idea.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion from Mr. Leborious, seconded by Ms. Mellom, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:42pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason E. Bowsza
First Selectman