

**DIVERSITY COUNCIL**  
**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR**  
**11 RYE STREET**  
**BROAD BROOK, CT 06016**

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

**Monday, February 28, 2022**

**Meeting ID:** 332 683 3563

**Passcode:** townhall

<https://zoom.us/j/3326833563>

**\*\*\*These minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting\*\*\***

**Diversity Council Members Present:** Ana Rivera (Chair), Richard LeBoriosis, Narda Nadeau, Natasha Holmes

**Diversity Council Members Absent:** Gabriella Resto, Jonathan Wyse, Joseph Blackwood

**Recording Secretary:** Sabo Maniscalco

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Rivera called the Regular Meeting to Order at 7:11 p.m.

**2. TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:**

Monday, March 28, 2022, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

**3. ATTENDANCE/ESTABLISH QUORUM:**

All members are present via Zoom except for Gabriella Resto, Jonathan Wyse, and Joseph Blackwood.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Regular Meeting Minutes, January 24, 2022**

**MOTION** was made by (Richard LeBoriosis) and **SECONDED** by (Narda Nadeau) to approve the regular meeting minutes for January 24, 2022.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Motion: **PASSED**

**5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

None.

## **6. COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE:**

Ana Rivera: I have received email regarding the diversity flags from Jason Bowsza. It provides information on how and when to use the flags in our town.

Natasha Holmes: So, our town does not have the specific policy allowing us to hang the diversity flags?

Ana Rivera: No, therefore, it is going to be on our agenda for the upcoming meetings. We will need to work on developing the policy for our town.

Natasha Holmes: I am not sure which department handles the flag posting.

Ana Rivera: I spoke with Debbie Williams about it. She had extensive conversation regarding the issue with the Town. So, I will ask her to write it up to get more details to us. The flags that we have now are from the two holidays – July 4<sup>th</sup>, Independence Day and Memorial Day. The poles in the town are specifically there for them. If approved, they will add new brackets for other flags.

Natasha Holmes: Is it going to be our Council providing the flags for the town? I am curious who is going to be in charge and where they will be kept.

*Debbie Williams joined the meeting at 7:19pm.*

Ana Rivera: This is Debbie Williams. She is the Chair of the newly formed Arts and Culture Commission for the Town. I see a lot of opportunities for collaboration.

Debbie Williams: We had ideas of having our town's old pictures as images for the flags such as the old pictures for East Windsor. The other idea was representing the different ethnic groups of the town on these flags. I have contacted two companies for quotes. I will get you more information soon.

Ana Rivera: Richard, could you please update us on the forms for the East Windsor Greater Together Grant?

Richard LeBorinous: Ok. So, from what I understand our grant money has been received by the Town and is available to us. I have spent a fair amount of research to find appropriate consulting groups to work with and provide facilitators for the first workshop. My wife works for CRAIG as a PR that reaches out to the families. She has recommended a group that focuses on Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI). This group largely works with the municipalities that make up 80 percent of their services and the rest is the private business consultation. This group talks about the various workshops related to the DEI. I have shared the email with you. I have a Zoom meeting this Wednesday with a representative to discuss the options that we could choose from

the form. The company could also tailor their services based on our needs for the Town municipality.

Natasha Holmes: Do you know how much they charge for introductory class?

Richard LeBorinous: All the information is on the form. And, I will provide you more information once I discuss our options with the facilitator. One thing is for sure that we do not have enough money to afford their high-end facilitators. The firm itself is really good. We could get a really good facilitator and custom-made brochures with the money we have.

Natasha Holmes: After we implement some of the recommendation, we could possibly do some follow up.

Richard LeBorinous: Our initial request was \$7,000 and we just got \$1,500.

Natasha Holmes: We need to make this one session the best one. Last time we have discussed to include the East Windsor Police Department and any other essential Town Departments in this project.

Richard LeBorinous: As soon as we get cleared with the session, we will reach other important commissions and government essential units of the town and then do the community outreach.

Natasha Holmes: Good idea. I could also volunteer once we get time and date of the event identified.

Richard LeBorinous: The meeting is at 9 in the morning this Thursday.

Natasha Holmes: Is it a Zoom meeting?

Richard LeBorinous: Yes. Any suggestions or ideas to pursue with them?

Natasha Holmes: Ask the size of the group to make it effective.

Richard LeBorinous: When we talked before, Gabriela had some really good demographic breakdown. I am going to ask if that demographics is included. Hopefully, if we do well we could build it into the future by getting additional funding. We will ask for the nominal amount from the Town.

Ana Rivera: I have just put in for the writing secretary for us. We will put it into the budget for the next year. We could also solicit donations from the local businesses to get publicity and funding. I have talked to Jason and he has suggested similar ideas.

Richard LeBorinous: Once we have this session presented we could get some recognition and visibility.

Ana Rivera: Going forward, shall we do our meetings live or zoom?

Richard LeBorinous: Live

Ana Rivera: We could also create a Facebook page and go live on it.

## **7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### **A. Update: Witness Stone Project**

Ana Rivera: Joe is not feeling well; therefore, he has emailed me the update. So, he wrote that Mr. Culliton is looking forward to do presentations for the Board of Education and other officials if needed. Joe has also applied for three separate grants. The grants are for teachers. He said that one grant was awarded to another group and that he has two pending approval.

### **B. Update: East Windsor Greater Together Grant**

Richard LeBorinous: No update.

### **C. Update: Black History Month**

Ana Rivera: Gabriella is busy with her school. She has texted me an update in which she was successful in posting the Warehouse Point Library display on Facebook page. Additionally, they have shared it on their own Facebook page. Gabriella also said that going forward we should plan events at least two months in advance. The library was unaware that there was a Diversity Council in town.

### **D. Update: Diversity Flags**

Richard LeBorinous: We need to reach out to the Town Department to make them aware that the Diversity Council is here. Any Questions?

Natasha Holmes: We ought to take opportunity to do some advanced planning and preparation. The events are coming up and we need to be ready with good ideas to highlight the notable people or disparities. We need to sit down as the Council to develop this list.

Ana Rivera: Anyone has any ideas to get together to work on it?

Natasha Holmes: How about putting our ideas on paper and sharing them with each other first, and, then, have a list of ideas to discuss it at our next meeting?

Ana Rivera: Great. I will send e-mail to Gabriella to collaborate on it.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. Facebook**

Ana Rivera: So, I have just heard from Jason Bowsza, the First Selectman to create a Facebook page regarding our Council. We need to assign a member to facilitate and manage this page.

**MOTION** was made by (Richard LeBorinous) and **SECONDED** by (Narda Nadeau) to appoint Jonathan Wyse to facilitate and manage the East Windsor Diversity Council Facebook page.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Motion: **PASSED**

Natasha LeBorinous: I can also help to create flyers or ideas for the Facebook postings.

Ana Rivera: To ensure consistency, we must pass everything through him.

### **B. Legislation**

Ana Rivera: We spoke about the legislation. We will table it so we could review it for our next meeting.

### **C. Arts and Culture Collaboration**

Ana Rivera: Debbie Williams and I spoke about the collaboration with the East Windsor Arts and Culture Council. Debbie, could you please tell us when your next meeting is?

Debbie Williams: Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at the Town Hall at 6:30 P.M. You are all invited.

### **9. NEXT MEETING DATE:**

Regular Monthly Meeting, March 28, 2022

Ana Rivera: Anyone has any questions?

Richard LeBorinous: We need to have an agreement on selecting a facilitator for the upcoming meeting.

Ana Rivera: Well, we could appoint Richard LeBorinous as a facilitator.

**MOTION** was made by (Natasha Holmes) and **SECONDED** by (Narda Nadeau) to appoint Richard LeBorinous to facilitate the upcoming meeting.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Motion: **PASSED**

Richard LeBorinous: Thank you! I also invite everyone to attend the meeting. And, I will also send the meeting notes out afterwards.

Ana Rivera: Thank you!

10. **ADJOURNMENT**:

**MOTION** was made by (Natasha Holmes) and **SECONDED** by (Narda Nadeau) to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Motion: **PASSED**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Sabo Maniscalco, Recording Secretary, Diversity Council