



CITY OF DOVER

AD-HOC COMMITTEE FOR RACIAL EQUITY AND INCLUSION – APPROVED MINUTES

Meeting Type: **Regular Meeting**
Meeting Location: **City Hall, Council Conference Room**
Meeting Date: **Thursday, July 22, 2021**
Meeting Time: **7:00 PM**

Regular Members: 11

Luz Bay; Mark Brave; Lauren Conley; Maggie Fogarty; Timothy Mainella; Daniel Pontoh; Cora Quisumbing-King; Oscany Rodriguez DeJesus; Lina Shayo; Kathleen Blake; Councilor Dennis Shanahan, City Council Ex-officio; Jessica Rozzo, School Board Ex-officio

Alternate Members: 2

Tess Beem; Jill Braceland

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

Lina Shayo read the Land Acknowledgement.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Lina Shayo, Cora Quisumbing-King, Luz Bay, Maggie Fogarty, Kathleen Blake, Dennis Shanahan (City Council), Tim Mainella, Oscany Rodriguez DeJesus, Tess Beem

Absent (excused): Lauren Conley, Jill Braceland, Jessica Rozzo (School Board)

Absent: Mark Brave

3. APPROVE MINUTES

The minutes from the May 27, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.

4. CITIZENS FORUM

No citizens present.

5. CURRENT EVENTS

Luz identified a question for Mike Joyal about the availability/accessibility of information pertaining to ward-level elections, such as which seats are open, description of the roles, how to submit a name. This is an issue of access to information which would promote greater community engagement.

Now that the prohibition against teaching about systemic oppression is state law, we are attentive to the impacts of this measure on our local schools and municipality. Recent guidance released by the NH Department of Education, NH Department of Justice and the Human Rights Commission is not likely to shed much light. We will reach out to the Dover School Board, as well as the Dover teachers' union, NEA-NH and others to get a sense of how educators are feeling and responding to the new law and the guidance. Similar guidance was also published for municipal offices; we will ask Mike Joyal what he anticipates the impacts will be.

Tess will reach out to Lisa Dillingham at Dover Teachers Union.

Maggie will contact NEA – NH.

Dennis will contact the State Employees Association, Mike Joyal, City Attorney Josh Wyatt, and Chief Breault to ask about their general reaction, the likely impacts, their



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planned response and opportunities for support. We will share feedback via email before the August meeting and we will discuss next steps when we meet.

6. COMMITTEE UPDATES

Lina attended City Council meeting in June. Mayor Carrier read the Juneteenth proclamation. Many thanks to Jill for her excellent work on this. Juneteenth flag was raised. Proclamation was also read for Pride month. A flag was raised in late June in acknowledgement of Pride month as well.

Land acknowledgement was not read for Memorial Day. We hope it will be read on Indigenous People's Day. Lina suggests a working group to promote use of the land acknowledgement. Kathleen agrees and urges that we incorporate the history of enslaved people in Dover. Purpose of this working group will be to promote and integrate the land acknowledgement in various sectors of community life. The group will be led by Kathleen, and will include Tim, Dennis, Luz and Cora. The working group will report back on an initial scope of work at the August meeting.

Luz is our liaison to the planning committee for the Dover 400th. This anniversary is an opportunity to be ambitious.

Committee vacancies - Dan Pontoh had resigned from this committee when he moved away from Dover, noting that the high cost of rental housing was the principal reason he had to leave Dover. He was offered an opportunity to return but we haven't heard back from him.

Mark Brave has missed six meetings and has indicated that he intends to resign due to demands of his new role as sheriff. Dennis will follow up to request formal letter of resignation.

Oscany offers her resignation at this time as she is about to move to Portland, Maine. Committee members wish her well and thank her for her contribution to this work.

Currently the committee is authorized to have 11 full members plus an alternate. With three resignations, we need two members and an alternate. Dennis will check with the Appointments Committee about prior applicants. There will be an announcement in the Dover Download. Jill will be asked to become full member.

We discussed outreach for possible new members, including a representative of the library, a youth, and various underrepresented identities, including transgender persons, low-income residents, people with disabilities, formerly incarcerated persons. We also discussed knowledge and experiences that would enrich our capacity, including harm reduction and community engagement. We will reflect more about what representations will benefit this committee, and also do outreach to our own contacts/networks.



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We will wait for new committee members before we vote on a new co-chair.

Work Plan – This agenda item was deferred to the August meeting.

7. REVIEW, DISCUSS, VOTE

Luz shared a document for review and discussion. Committee members agree to do outreach to all city commissions and boards to inform them about our purpose and our work and to invite conversation about where our work might overlap. Our goal is to build awareness and relationships. Lina will send an introductory message to all chairpersons; we will discuss follow up at our August meeting. Dennis will let Mike Joyal know of our plan.

Our key messages will be: Who we are, what our mandate is, our goals, what we have accomplished and want to accomplish/future plans. Where does your work intersect with our concerns? Where might we work together?

Oscany has been keeping a list of this committee's accomplishments. Tim will manage this list until it is incorporated into the work plan.

Cora will connect w/ Michelle Holt Shannon re: HB2

Flag Policy – This agenda item was deferred to the August meeting.

8. ADJOURN

We discussed the agenda items for the August meeting, including the communications plan, the work plan, flag policy, report from the land acknowledgment working group, and a report from outreach regarding the 'divisive concepts' law.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 PM. The next meeting is Thursday, August 26.