



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, October 28, 2021**
Meeting Time: **7:00 PM**

Regular Members: 11

Luz Bay; Lauren Conley; Maggie Fogarty; Timothy Mainella; Cora Quisumbing-King; Lina Shayo; Kathleen Blake; Jill Braceland; Councilor Dennis Shanahan, City Council Ex-officio; Jessica Rozzo, School Board Ex-officio, TBD

Alternate Members: 2

Tess Beem; TBD

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Cora Quisumbing-King read the Land Acknowledgement.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Lina Shayo, Cora Quisumbing-King, Luz Bay, Maggie Fogarty, Tim Mainella, Lauren Conley, Jill Braceland, Tess Beem

Also present: Colleen Bessette, Mike Joyal

Absent (excused): Dennis Shanahan, Jessica Rozzo (School Board)

Absent: Kathleen Blake

3. APPROVE MINUTES

The minutes from the September 23 meeting were approved unanimously with one addition (to add that we encourage citizens of Dover to engage with the City Council about proclamations related to 'heritage days'), and two corrections (that Cora volunteered to attend the full committee meeting of the CWDAC on October 19, and that Tess would attend the Park subcommittee meeting on October 6).

4. CITIZENS FORUM

No citizens present.

5. REVIEW, DISCUSS, VOTE

Communications Plan and Work plan –

Review of these plans will be prioritized for the November meeting. Lauren will email the current work plan to committee members ahead of the November meeting. Tim will email our current list of recommendations prior to the November meeting.

We will prepare an annual report for the City Council for January.



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Land Acknowledgement –

Mike shared that the City is currently soliciting pricing for the Land Acknowledgement plaques. They will be bronze, with raised lettering; they will not include the seal of the City.

Committee members discussed whether the Land Acknowledgement plaques should reference each building or simply say “this facility.” Because of cost implications of individualized plaques for 26 different locations, each plaque will say “this facility.”

Further discussion will be had regarding the scope of educational outreach.

6. COMMITTEE UPDATES/CURRENT EVENTS

Indigenous Peoples’ Day –

Dover celebration of Indigenous People’s Day was well attended. Mayor Carrier read both the original proclamation for Indigenous People’s Day as well as the Land Acknowledgement. Kathleen Blake spoke; Denise and Paul Pouliot offered a song and spoke as representatives of the Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook -Abenaki People. The Pouliots gifted the flag to the City of Dover.

Committee members will ask Kathleen to assist us with pronunciation so that we can be helpful to the readers on occasions when the Land Acknowledgement is read.

Committee members appreciated that there was an opportunity for dialogue about the meaning of the flag. This kind of engagement will be good to incorporate next year, as well as a handout.

Apple Harvest Day –

Tess and Cora did outreach at this event on behalf of our committee and shared the Land Acknowledgement with vendors. The Arts Commission shared their table space with us.

Incident in Dover –

Committee members discussed a recent news story about a civil rights investigation into an alleged incident involving a young child in Dover. Acknowledging that this particular incident is a legal matter currently under investigation, committee members shared reflections about the broader reality of racism and other forms of harm in our community. We seek ways to respond effectively, not only as a committee but through a variety of platforms and networks.

One question for further discussion is how do we interact with other entities, including City committees such as the Police Community Engagement Committee, Equity Vision



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Keepers and Dover DREAM, as well as community groups such as Black Lives Matter Seacoast and the Seacoast NAACP?

We would like to create an inventory of resources and groups available to respond to incidents in our community.

Waterfront Development Committee –

Tess attended the Park subcommittee of the Cocheco Waterfront Development Advisory Committee (CWDAC) and spoke at citizens forum on behalf of our committee. This subcommittee is working to design the public park area next to the private development. Tess expressed our interest to work with them in the areas of public art and monuments, and other opportunities to promote equity and inclusion.

Cora attended the full committee meeting of the CWDAC and spoke during citizens forum to describe our committee, our values and our suggestions for the project including special outreach to BIPOC-owned businesses, a monument to the indigenous peoples who inhabited this land before the settlement period, an expansion of immigrants' park, and more.

The Arts Commission will be working on the proposals related to public art, monuments, etc. Tess will serve as this committee's liaison to the commission.

The private development will consist of 400 units of housing – all market rate. Committee members discussed the implications of this infusion of higher-cost housing on housing affordability for Dover renters.

Next meeting –

Given that the fourth Thursday of the month is Thanksgiving, this committee agreed to meet next on Thursday, November 18 at 7 PM.

The date of the December meeting will be set via a Doodle poll of all committee members.

7. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 9 PM.