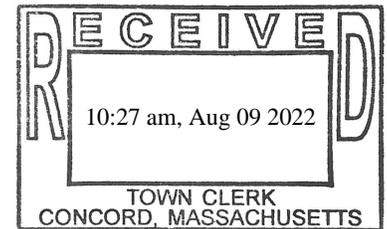


Town of Concord
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission
Meeting Minutes – June 17, 2022



The meeting was held remotely via Zoom web conference.

Call to Order

Co-Chair Rob Munro called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Roll call

Ha Richmond - present
Rose Cratsley - present
Ji Orloff - present
Kristen Ferguson - present
Rob Munro – present

Andrea Foncerrada joined at 7:07 PM.

Approval of Minutes

Co-Chair Munro asked whether there were any proposed changes to the draft minutes of May 12, 2022 that had been distributed to the Commission. Ha Richmond suggested adding a sentence capturing the discussion about the tone of the letter, and sent the wording to Andrea Foncerrada so it could be included in the final version of the document.

Moved: to approve the minutes May 12, 2022 as amended

Ha Richmond: Aye
Rose Cratsley: Aye
Ji Orloff: Aye
Kristen Ferguson: Aye
Rob Munro: Aye
Andrea Foncerrada: Aye

Draft letter response regarding METCO family concerns

Andrea Foncerrada shared a version of the letter that incorporated the feedback of commission members. The members provided additional input on text to describe Commission's objectives in sending the letter. Andrea made edits to the shared document online to incorporate the Commission members' comments.

Commission members also discussed where to post the letter to get broader exposure.

Select Board liaison Matt Johnson offered to follow up on the question of the letterhead/format and signature line for the letter.

Moved: To send the letter regarding METCO family concerns to CPS and CCRSD as amended through the group's deliberations in the meeting.

Ha Richmond: Aye
Rose Cratsley: Aye
Ji Orloff: Aye
Kristen Ferguson: Aye
Rob Munro: Aye
Andrea Foncerrada: Aye

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League of Women’s Voters Speaker Series co-sponsor opportunity

Anne Rarich described a speaker series that the League of Women Voters is putting together to give voice to DEI perspectives relating to local history, schools (both public and private), land use, zoning and housing, and how to make Concord a more welcoming community. Ms. Rarich asked whether the DEI Commission would be willing to co-sponsor the series, noting that the League was willing to do most of the organizational work.

As a new body, Commission members discussed how they’d set criteria in the future to decide whether to co-sponsor an event. In the meantime, the members confirmed that they would like to participate in this series.

New officer and members conversation

The members discussed a couple of candidates to fill the two open seats on the Commission. One may be ready to submit for nomination at the next Select Board meeting.

Co-Chair Munro announced that he would like to step down as chair of the Commission, and encouraged nominations for a successor that could be voted at the next meeting in July.

Standing meeting set up

The Commission discussed setting a regular cadence for future meetings, and proposed setting the second Wednesday of the month, 7PM as the regular date. The next meeting will be July 13th, via Zoom conference.

New Business

There was none.

Public comment

Rebecca Del Guidice of 584 Hayward Mill Road thanked the commission for composing and sending the METCO letter, and as a member of COAR, offered to post it.

Interim Assistant Town Manager Kellie Hebert introduced herself, and offered to assist the Commission in their efforts.

Lois Suarez of 34 Everett St, a member of the Racial Justice Group at First Parish and member of Climate Action Group, noted the small gains being made in diversifying public housing in town.

Concord Public Schools Committee Liaison Cynthia Rainey complemented the Commission on their work.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.