

Indigenous Peoples Day Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 16, 2021

Remote via ZOOM

DRAFT Minutes

Committee members present: Arthur Conquest, Raquel Halsey, Maya Norton, Felina Silver Robinson, Kea van der Ziel; Caitlin Starr (ODICR), Raul Fernandez (arrived ~3:35); Ann Braga (Director, HR), guest

Committee member absent: Larry Onie

No members of the public present

Meeting called order 3:05 PM

1. Introductions of all present
2. Minutes of 1/19/2021 approved by all members present without corrections
3. Discussion with Ann Braga, Director HR, guest, present to discuss Indigenous Peoples Day on the Town calendar. Columbus Day is used for a holiday in collective bargaining units which were last negotiated in 2019. Negotiations will be going on this year and it gives the opportunity to designate the holiday on the 2nd Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples Day. May need to approach this in steps. Caitlin will see if holidays can be listed on the Town calendar on the website, even if no event is scheduled. MLK Day has been listed on the calendar in the past when there was an in person event.
4. Maya gave an update on the Upstander Academy, which helps teachers develop and teach a curriculum around oppression and genocide. She has sent it on to several people in the School Dept and BHS and will forward to the individual principals. Deadline to apply is 3/1 to get a 45% decrease in tuition. In the past there has been a summer program to help teachers teach African American history.
5. Land acknowledgement at Town Meeting. Moderator Gadsby says that this will likely require a warrant article for a by law change. A small group, consisting of Raul, Felina, Raquel, Caitlin, Todd Kirrane and Barbara Brown has met to discuss the process. Raul is working on the wording of the warrant article and the acknowledgement. Raquel will take this to NAICOB and UAINE to look at the wording of the acknowledgement. There was agreement amongst the group that our committee would like to be petitioners. There will need to be one person who is the chief petitioner to coordinate speakers for the various committee hearings. This committee would need to designate a person to read the acknowledgement preferably after the National Anthem at the start of the 1st session of Town Meeting. This process requires us to think carefully about what this acknowledgement means and how best to develop and strengthen relationships with the Indigenous community.
6. Raquel has received the DVD "Gather". We will work on plans for a showing at our next regular meeting in March.
7. Maya will send the link to the next public showing of "Dawnland".
8. Maya continues to work with Cultural Survival on the possibility of a community celebration of IPD in the future. There is a hope that neighboring communities might join with us so that we can hire a consultant, possibly a grad student from one of the local educational programs, to coordinate
9. Next meeting scheduled for 2/25 at 2 PM to discuss the warrant article and any urgent updates.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 PM