

Indigenous Peoples Day Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Remote via ZOOM

Draft Minutes

Committee members present: Raquel Halsey, Arthur Conquest, Maya Norton, Larry Onie (on phone), Felina Silver Robinson, Kea van der Ziel; Caitlin Starr (ODICR), Raul Fernandez (Select Board), Barbara Brown (historical consultant)

No members of the public present

Meeting called to order at 3:01 PM

1. Minutes of 4/13/21 approved unanimously – RH -y, AC-y, MN-y, LO-y, FSR-y, Kv/dZ-y
2. Discussion of progress on warrant article (WA 11) regarding acknowledgement of Indigenous history in Brookline. Meetings of Advisory Committee and its Health Services subcommittee summarized. Three meetings with subcommittee over the past month and one with the AC last week. Final result after hours of hearings was an amendment to strip the 4th paragraph from the statement as submitted in the explanation by the petitioners and placing the amended statement in the body of the warrant article. This would require any change in the statement would need to be filed as an amendment to the bylaws. The AC and the subcommittee were informed that the petitioners would not be in favor of the change. We were just informed that the AC will take this up again with a proposed amendment, language not yet public. Due to the amendment filed by the AC, the Select Board will possibly reconsider their previous vote in support of the petitioners' motion, also tonight. There was no motion from the IPDC to reconsider our previous vote in favor of the statement. Speaking in support of this WA 11 at Town Meeting discussed. We need a petitioner to introduce the WA. Raquel is the obvious person to do this as she is chair of the committee, but she cannot be available due to other job commitments. Arthur volunteered to read Raquel's statement. Kea, Maya and Felina have been signed up to speak. Barbara previously said that she would sign up as well. Kea to inquire of the Moderator who is speaking for and against the WA at Town Meeting.
3. Raul brought up the issue of the Boston Athletic Assn's scheduling of the Boston Marathon on Indigenous Peoples Day. Newton IPD's activities have been displaced by the marathon. They are working on this. There is a question of whether this committee and the Select Board should also pursue some response.
4. Brief discussion of our possible event this year. People have voiced that they missed our event in 2020, which was a much-modified event and not well publicized due to COVID restrictions. Discussed that we might consider an event like that of 2019 with food, vendors and a possible children's program with children, including groups like the Girl Scouts and school groups do various projects that would be on display.
 - a. Raquel spoke of a project with MIT regarding land acknowledgements within our homes.
 - b. There is a design project in the works that features the Flag and Seal committee's work for the State. This will be a traveling exhibit after its debut at the DeCordova Museum.
 - c. Maya noted that there are equity committees at the schools. They could work on projects.
 - d. Raul mentioned that we should consider active and passive programming. We need to consider what we can do that will be public facing. If needed our charge can be changed by the Select Board.
 - e. Caitlin mentioned that Lizzie Buhl, previous participant in our meetings and teacher at BHS who is working with students on a curriculum change to better cover the history of Indigenous People. They will come to our meetings as possible in the future.
 - f. The question was raised about the total known Indigenous population of Brookline – census shows a total of 25.
5. Next meeting Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM