Anti-Racism Meeting
September 26, 2022
Minutes

Attendees:

Barbara Beckwith	Adria Evans	EssJay Foulkrod	Penny Hall
Barbara Holtzman	Sky Kimball	Betty Kornitzer	Ken Richard
Nancy Richman	Johnnie Rodriguez	Cathy Solomon	Russell Stokes
Etta Zasloff			

Penny welcomed the group and presented a reading from the book "*So You Want To Talk About Race*". She introduced Nancy Richman as the Anti-Racism facilitator.

Prioritization of categories

Nancy referenced the summary of the previous meeting's brainstorm session. She asked that all attendees select the top two categories that were most important to them and in which they are most interested this year. The categories were:

1. Learn/Educate Ourselves
2. Go Out to Learn
3. Skill Building
4. Building Connections
5. **Educate Ourselves in Ways that We Could Open to the Broader Community**
6. **Advocacy and local Anti-Racism Activism**

The top choices selected by the group were #6 and #5.

Discussion of Highest Priorities

#6 - Advocacy and Local Anti-Racism Activism

a) Book banning in local schools – The question was asked as to whether there have been challenges made by parents to books in the local schools, in particular, on topics related to LGBT+, African American history, indigenous history and so forth. The group agreed that this is an area that they want to stay on top of and be ready to mobilize on short notice. We must be on the lookout and pay attention to if/when/where it is happening in South County regarding restrictions on teaching history and book banning and be prepared to show support/protest.

b) Support for anti-racism efforts currently underway in the SK schools – The Beloved Community Advisory Committee wrote the Anti Racism Policy which was passed by the SK School Committee, for all schools in the SK District. It has yet to be implemented. They are working on getting an Equity Audit done as a first step. Johnnie will keep us informed of the work she is doing currently in this area**.**
The group agreed that this is also an area they are interested in supporting. One idea that was suggested was to create a communication tool to ensure that we have contacts

in the local schools, not just in South Kingstown, but in the communities around us so we are in the loop when important issues need support via letters to the editor, attendance at school board meetings, etc. This is also an area that the attendees at the meeting agreed they want to stay on top of and be ready to mobilize on short notice.

c) Upcoming Elections – Very important! The League of Women Voters will publish a guide to the elections on October 6. Supporting appropriate candidates for Town Council and School Boards is critical.

Attendance at public meetings is important, so the Town Councils, School Boards, police, Housing Authority, and so forth get the message that "we're watching you!" The question was raised as to whether or not we want to revisit reaching out to the local police as has been done in the past. No decision was made.

d) Ocean Access (Legislation HB8055) – This is an important issue for indigenous people losing access to fishing grounds.

#5 - Educate ourselves in ways that we can open to the broader community

Some ideas in which the group expressed interest:

- "Make a big noise" – becoming more visible in the community through various means, events, films, book group, adult education…is important
- The committee is very interested in inviting Mixed Magic to present the program "*Reflections: Growing Up as a Black Man in America*." Elizabeth has spoken to Mixed Magic about this (we need to check with Elizabeth on the status of this). This might be held at UUCSC, be a part of a worship service, or even perhaps hold it at the SK high school so students might be more apt to attend.
- Nancy Rose and Charlie Donnelly are working on an anti-racism film series. It was suggested that the film "*Traces of the Trade*" be included in their series.
- It was suggested that the people in UUCSC, perhaps open to the broader community, might want to read a book together. Russell suggested "*Of Blood and Sweat*" by ClydeFloyd; Penny suggested "*So you want to talk about Race*." No decision made.
- Might we want to host a forum for town council members?

The question was posed: As a non-profit religious institution, what influence can we have with regard to politics?

<u>Next Steps</u>

1. The Social Justice Advisory Group will discuss minutes from the meeting and suggest a way of moving forward on the key ideas above.

   What might we want to pull the trigger on now and how?
   - Find out about more details about the Donnelly / Rose film series (Bina)
   - Ask Elizabeth about the status of the Mixed Magic performance (Nancy)

- Put election info in the UUCSC newsletter (Etta)