

## COMMITTEE ON SOLIDARITY

Tuesday April 11, 2023

6:30 PM

Portland Library & Zoom B

Members Present: Glenn "PJ" Eason, Hope Jones, Kristy Fuller (Alt), Liz Hibino (Chair). Members Absent: Erin Livensparger, Nancy Goodwin, Shelly Nolan (Alt). Members of the Public Present: Tina Prakash

1. **Liz Hibino called the meeting to order at 6:33pm.**
2. **Liz Hibino led the roll call and introductions.** Tina Prakash has been nominated to the Solidarity Committee but has not been sworn in yet.
3. **Approve Agenda: March 21, 2023:** There was a motion by Kristy Fuller, seconded by PJ Eason to approve the minutes. Vote unanimous, motion carried.
4. **Correspondence / Public Comment:**
  - a. Information was shared re: The Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative invites you to "Social Justice: A Poetic Conversation" on Friday, April 28 at South Church, located at 949 Main Street in South Glastonbury. A reception starts at 6 p.m. and poetry readings and discussion begin at 6:30. This is a free event open to all.
5. **Approve Meeting Minutes: March 21, 2023:** There was a motion by Kristy Fuller, seconded by Hope Jones to approve the minutes. Vote unanimous, motion carried.
6. **Report from Sub-Committee for Resources Brochure:** Approved by Board of Selectmen with changes made to Portland Youth and Family Services name and phone number. Noel Garrett will have the final copy translated to Spanish once Hope confirms with Portland Youth and Family Services on their proper title.
7. **Report from Sub-Committee for PRIDE event:** No updates yet. PJ Eason and Kristy Fuller will meet Monday at 6pm.
8. **Report from Sub-Committee for Juneteenth:** Had Sub-Committee meeting on March 30th. The event will be on Saturday, June 24th at the Riverfront Park, 11am to 2pm. Co-Sponsors: Town of Portland, Portland Social Justice Coalition, and True Vine Church. A Food Truck has been chosen, Thomas' Smokey Pit Stop. DJ still being finalized. Need to see how many bids needed for quotes and at what cap? Will make sure to invite the police department. Kristy will check in to find out about Story Walk & see if the storyboard can be changed. PJ will run Solidarity Committee Table on Juneteenth, to discuss what we are working on and gather emails. Next Juneteenth Sub-Committee Meeting on April 20th.
9. **Report on Outreach to Community Committees and Organizations:** No update submitted from Shelly. PJ will email Shelly for an update.
10. **Discussion/vote on Task Force Survey Action to Focus On:**
  - a. Kristy, Liz, and PJ discussed wanting to get updates on initiatives on DEI from Portland Schools. Will reach out to Tim Lavoy followed by Eric Martin for these updates.
  - b. Kristy, Tina, and Liz discussed reaching out to counseling centers to see about

having on-call advocates for virtual assistance for Domestic calls. Find out what kind of Domestic Violence training our town officers are getting? Follow up with the Police Department on hiring practices when it comes to DEI.

- c. Liz suggested inviting back the Police Department, PYFS, BOE and Town; especially when discussions will involve these groups.
  - d. Hope suggested having a Town Sponsored Diversity Day possibly in April 2024.
  - e. Liz suggested working to increase members and inclusive events for town. Work to reach out to different communities and groups to discuss our committee and our plans and goals.
  - f. Discussed Creating Special Meetings after Juneteenth to work further on action items. Immediate actions will be to invite the Police Department to Juneteenth, Reach out to the School District in September. Follow up with Shelly to make sure the Housing Authority is included.
11. **Schedule to display Town Solidarity banners** - Will run banners June 1st to June 30th, at least. PJ will reach out to Ryan O'Halpin regarding this.
  12. **Open Discussion:** Hope brought up the BOS meeting and we updated the schedule for attending. May: PJ / June: Kristy / July: Tina. Next Solidarity Committee Meeting will be at the Senior Center 7pm on Tuesday May 9th. Kristy volunteered to get the key before 4pm.
  13. **Public comment:** None.
  14. There was a motion by Kristy Fuller seconded by Hope Jones to adjourn the meeting at 7:54pm. Vote unanimous; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Glenn "PJ" Eason