

Citizens Committee on Civic Unity Meeting Notes

Committee Meeting Virtual Meeting via Zoom 2/2/2021, 5:30-7:00 pm

Attending: Eva Martin Blythe; Kelly Hassett; Kenny Likis; Steven Lee; Laura Mosman Smith; Holly Bernier

Guest: Whitney Mooney, Development Manager from the YWCA Cambridge

Staff: Taha Jennings; Brian Corr

Started meeting at 5:35

Updates

A committee member shared unfortunate news of the unexpected death of a family member of another committee member, as well as a fund that had been set up in their honor.

Committee Housekeeping

- Dr. Billie Jean Young Event:
 - Whitney Mooney reported that the YWCA Cambridge only spent \$1,000 of the \$3,000 grant from Mass Humanities, and MH has agreed to allow the remaining \$2,000 to be used for an event at CRLS if it is done in Spring 2021. Ideally, it would be done in the same way as the Starlight Square production, with either a better video or a live performance, followed by having a chance for the students to speak live with Dr. Young.
 - Outstanding questions are: is the funding sufficient? Is there a video without the technical issues? When would it work for the Civic Unity?
 - Committee members discussed the opportunities, possibilities, and challenges of doing this as a virtual event.
 - Kenny believes that Dr. Young has given us permission to use the video, and that she would probably be available for a live conversation after the video is shown.
 - Laura will connect Whitney to Tanya Milner, who serves as the History Coordinator

for CRLS.

- We will be looking at the end of March as a target for the event.

General Business

- **Upcoming & Developing**

- **Recruiting new members**

- Brian shared that some board and commissions have started to recruit people to fill vacancies.
- Steven shared the process that the LGBTQ+ Commission just went through, where he spearheaded the recruitment process. They had 7 vacancies to fill and spent time thinking about what skills and diversity the commission needed and general qualifications. There were 2 or 3 people doing each interview. Over the course of a few weeks they posted the position, interviewed more than a dozen applicants during weeknights and weekends, and chose 7 and they are adding new members this week.
- Taha and Brian discussed how they would be able to work with a group of committee members and support the effort and participate in interviews.
- The committee discussed looking for up to 5 or 6 people to bring on to the committee.
- For the next meeting, the Committee will review the last posting for a vacancy.
- Committee members interested in working on the recruitment/ interviewing group are: Holly, Steven, Kelly and Taha and Brian (one or the other for interviews). We will also reach out to Kenny and Betsy to see if either of them is interested.

- **Other Updates:**

- Betsy asked Laura to discuss doing something about Maria Baldwin and her advocacy. Betsy also raised the idea of a “history scavenger hunt” organized by Civic Unity that takes you around Cambridge to historical sites or markers and use it to create additional information. There was also discussion of creating an app.
- Holly would like to do focus groups across the city on police reform or other current issues about how the police operate with regards to issues of race, etc. Brian mentioned that Councillor Simmons was working on similar efforts.