

Minutes
Hardwick Equity Committee Regular Meeting
1st Mondays - Memorial Building
July 3rd, 2023, 6PM

Members Present: Ceilidh Galloway-Kane - Chair, Lucian Avery - Vice Chair and Secretary, David O'Brien - Treasurer, Bradford Smith, Amy Rosenthal

Members Absent: Chip Troiano

Meeting called to order: 6:03

Adjustments to the agenda

Lucian moved to discuss Open Meeting Law in place of OSSU partnership since David B. is not present. David seconded - all in favor.

Approve Minutes

David moved to accept as written, Brad seconded, all in favor except Amy abstained because she did not receive them.

Public Comment

No public attending. Ceilidh will make sure our meetings are on the town calendar. Amy suggested we put them on Front Porch Forum. Ceilidh will send agendas to Casey to post on FPF.

Retreat Date and Planning (Ceilidh)

Decided to have our retreat on August 27th from 2:30 - 6. We will collectively decide the agenda for the retreat at our regular August meeting. Some items we talked about: Review action plan, budget process, review bylaws, review training, discuss assessment tool, including/recruiting more diverse voices, what do we need to do to make the committee more equitable and inclusive, are we doing things that are actually useful. Maybe this is a whole process.

Decided to have the retreat separate from the training so we can have more time for both. Brad will contact Fearless Futures about times for the training - ideally some time before the retreat so we can have time to digest and discuss.

Statement review for Select Board about Lyndonville Incident (Lucian, Brad)

The re-worked version:

In light of the recent incident at a queer poetry event in Lyndonville, the Hardwick Equity Committee and Select Board affirm the right of all artists and performers in our midst to personal safety. We value the contributions of the Queer and BIPOC members of our community. We appeal to our fellow community members to join us in actively working to keep us all safe, thriving and able to freely contribute our diverse gifts and perspectives to the world without threat. We call on the town and other institution and organizations to bring appropriate resources to bear to insure that individuals who are being harassed or threatened are safe.

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Here is the article about the incident: [After being accosted by protesters at a queer poetry reading, a Vermont artist fears for his safety.](#)

Discussion about whether a statement makes sense without a commitment to concrete action. Maybe we need a protocol for when this happens again in our community. Maybe we need to talk to many other community members and town entities if we are going to recommend developing this. Should we add more detail about the incident or others that have happened in our town?

Film update and community program planning (Brad, Amy, Lucian)

Brad, Amy and Lucian decided on these 2 movies:
[Who We Are](#) (2022): \$495 for screening license
A Chronicle of Racism in America

[The Disruptors](#) (2021): \$350 " " "
The first definitive, comprehensive documentary film on ADHD.

Casey has purchased the rights for unlimited viewing in one location with a DVD. Now we need to organize the screenings.

Brad will look into the fine print about what location we can show it. He will also work on finding people to lead discussions afterwards.

Lucian suggested another film that mostly defined and explaining the LGBTQ+ acronym. We could talk to the Hazen group to see if they have ideas about this and want to work together. Amy will talk the health people at the school and see if they have ideas.

Brad, Amy and Lucian will work on a schedule and flesh this out to present at the next meeting. David said that people often attend more in the winter. Ceilidh suggested figuring out what it means to partner with VT Public so we can screen movies they own.

Open meeting guidelines

Went over the e-mail rules and also rules for holding electronic meetings.

Old & New Business

Brad reached out to the Buffalo Mountain Market about the Food For All Program. Emily (general manager) said she is interested in meeting to talk about it and proposed meeting next week. Brad will propose meeting at 2:30 on the 13th. David and Ceilidh will join also.

Adjourned: 8:08

Respectfully submitted,

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Lucian Avery, Secretary