Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Council

Regular Meeting
August 3, 2026 - 6:00 P.M.
Weatogue Room, Simsbury Public Library
725 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, Connecticut 06070

MINUTES

Call to Order:

- Co-Chair Vigdal called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

Roll Call:

- Members: Co-Chair Cheryl Cook, Co-Chair Rose Vigdal, Vice Chair Mala Matacin, Abigail Vacca, Leah Pitfield, Lydia Tedone
- Liaisons: Town Manager Marc Nelson, Selectwoman Diana Yeisley, Management Specialist Franklyn Barrueco
- Volunteer: Rick Brush

Liaison Reports:

- Board of Selectmen
    - Selectwoman Yeisley informed the Council that there is a Selectmen meeting next Monday where they will talk about capital bonding and finalize their goals for the term.
    - She discussed the recent Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association ambulance lease agreement, the approval of the Head of Children's Services/Deputy Library Director (Stephanie Prato's promotion), ribbon cutting for the Simsbury Performing Arts Center bandshell project, and Nod Road proposed solar array project.
    - She reported that the Library is finishing their review of the results from the Strategic Plan survey.
- Town Manager's Office
    - Manager Nelson informed the Council that his team is going to start next year's budget and capital planning shortly.

- Former Library Business & Career Center Coordinator Cyn Thomas is now working part-time in the Town Manager's Office as the Town's Business Development Coordinator and she is staff support to the Economic Development Commission.
- Human Resources Intern Jose will be starting in late August.
- There is a scheduled meeting later in the week to debrief on the 2026 Juneteenth Celebration with stakeholders, officials, and Council leadership.

Chair(s) Updates:

- Co-Chair Cook shared the Valley Life article on the 2026 Juneteenth Celebration.
- The Council discussed the student representative membership slot and will seek a new representative.

Due to a lack of quorum, the June 1, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes were not reviewed.

New Business:

- 501(c)(3) Juneteenth Nonprofit Organization Discussion
  - The Council discussed various possibilities and logistics regarding establishing a nonprofit organization focused on serving as the fiscal agent for future Juneteenth Celebrations. The Council further discussed different names for the organization.
- The Hispanic Heritage Month Discussion was not discussed due to key members not being present.

Old Business:

- Juneteenth Recap
  - The Council discussed the location and availability of food trucks, the fireworks finale, and the need to have more t-shirts for sale.
- Simsbury Civic Forum Update (Wednesday, September 16th at 6:00 P.M. in the Library)
  - Volunteer Brush outlined the scope and discussed the logistics for the event.
- 350th Anniversary of King Phillip's War Update not discussed due to key members not being present.
- Honor Flight Recap
  - Co-Chair Vigdal mentioned that it was a great event where more than twelve (12) people attended.
- Adopt DEI Council Logo
  - The Council discussed redesign the logo to include more diversity.

Adjourn:

- Co-Chair Vigdal adjourned the meeting at 7:19 P.M.

Town of Simsbury DEI Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 3, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

Franklyn Barrueco
Management Specialist