

# COMMITTEE ON SOLIDARITY

[PortlandCTSolidarity@gmail.com](mailto:PortlandCTSolidarity@gmail.com)

## Regular Meeting

**Tuesday June 11, 2024 7:00 PM**

Portland Senior Center, 7 Waverly Avenue, Portland Connecticut 06480

In-person and Zoom B—**ID: 352 700 8408 Password: 113ct**

Members Present: Glenn “P J” Eason, Liz Hibino, Cynthia Tyler, Hope Jones, Nancy Goodwin

Members Absent: Kristy Fuller (Alternate), Tina Prakash, Shelly Nolan (Alternate)

Members of the Public Present: Jennifer Billingsley

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1. Call Meeting to Order: Liz Hibino called meeting to order at 7:02pm
2. Roll Call: Liz Hibino led roll call
3. Approve Agenda: Nancy Goodwin motioned to approve agenda, seconded by P.J. and voted unanimously.
4. Correspondence/Public Comment—Liz advised that family matters had caused Emily Horn to step away from participation in Solidarity matters for now.  
In addition, Liz shared info about Juneteenth activities in local communities and encouraged members to attend, as possible.  
Lastly, Jennifer advised that Chatham Court was amenable to hosting a Solidarity meeting in their Community Room but, based on liability considerations, they could not make the room available for activities with

public invitees. Liz suggested an info session could be held in the Community Room for Chatham Court residents, and other public spaces could be considered for a future annual meeting for the public.

5. Approve Meeting Minutes: May 14, 2024: Liz motioned to approve and Nancy seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved as amended.
6. Donations and Budget Updates: T-Shirt sales and related Pride work group events netted \$320. plus a \$34. cash donation from the parade day that PJ will forward to Liz. Advertising Income from Juneteenth printed programs was \$1125. and vendor payments were \$125.
7. SOBA (State of Black America) Report—Copies will be available at the Juneteenth Solidarity table and we will continue to solicit interest in recruiting volunteers for a discussion group re: ‘The State of Portland’ for Black residents. A Chatham Court meeting might be another place to share the report and solicit discussants. In this context, Cindy also noted the recent front-page Middletown press story about blacks being denied mortgages at a significantly higher rate than whites in CT. She agreed to forward the article to group members.  
Nancy reminded the group of a contact person, Monique Lorenzo, who can be called directly at Middletown’s National Conference on Community and Justice (NCCJ) at [nccj.org](http://nccj.org). Monique is experienced in community outreach.
8. Pride Workgroup Updates: P.J. reminded the group that the Pride Parade and related events were a big success and that group members' signs were well-received (and sought out for photos by parade-viewers!) The Middletown event reportedly had 30-35K attendees—a significant increase over last year’s reported 20K. P.J. also reported that the Pride work group would be re-convening in July and looked forward to working with Tony Ferraiolo, an advocate for transgender youth and their families. Tony was also the Grand Marshall of Middletown’s Pride Parade.

9. Juneteenth Workgroup Updates: Liz noted that Dr. Britton and school staff members had continued to be remarkably supportive and that the weather seemed to be accommodating for an outdoor event (although the school was still offering the auditorium in case of rain and would give us until 6/13 to decide whether to employ the two minimum-wage students to assist with a move indoors if necessary.) Liz also offered that attendees were being reminded to bring blankets or chairs for sitting on the lawn. Liz also noted that a new, local, vendor had signed on to provide cotton candy, “sno cones” and popcorn. The Juneteenth Committee nominated Nancy Goodwin to serve as M.C. for the formal program. The schedule of speakers and activities is attached to these notes. The remainder of the meeting was spent in discussion re: vendors, costs, future-planning and lessons-learned for future year’s activities. Because much of this part of the meeting discussion involved expenditures and real and anticipated income from the Juneteenth event, Jennifer assisted the discussion by preparing a spreadsheet (attached) to facilitate the discussion and future planning. After extensive discussion, Nancy moved to approve the expenditures proposed in today’s Juneteenth work group meeting and Hope seconded the motion, which was voted unanimously.
  
10. In view of the lengthy Juneteenth discussion, members agreed to defer discussion of Voices of Portland and Solidarity in the Community until our July meeting.
  
11. Public Comment: Jennifer offered to provide town/city specific demographic data provided by “Data Haven” another Middletown resource.
  
12. Adjourn Meeting: Cindy motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 pm, Hope seconded and it was voted unanimously.

## Attachment: Budget

To be paid for by Vendor Fees, Advertisements solicited for the programs, and Donations, (and income generated by the Pride workgroup if needed, to be later reimbursed) the following expenses were voted on, and approved to be recommended by this Committee:

Nzinga's Daughters- performance	300
Minuteman - sign patches	93.83
Minuteman - sign patches	23.59
new yard signs	135.32
100 programs - attendees	278.74
34 programs - to give to businesses	82.74
Band - "For Fun"	up to 300
Butterfly character from Anne Cubberly's giant puppets	330

To be paid for by the \$1000 budget from the Town of Portland, the following expenses were voted on, and approved to be recommended by this Committee:

Band - "At Last"	500
Food	500

Total approved: \$2,544.22

## Attachment: Program Schedule/Activities

# JUNETEENTH PROGRAM

**10:30 to 11:00 Welcome**

**11:00 to Noon Presentations:**

Town of Portland Juneteenth Proclamation by  
Ryan Curley, PORTLAND FIRST SELECTMAN

Reading by Barbara Shaw, TRUSTEE, TRUE VINE  
HOLINESS CHURCH OF PORTLAND

Reading by Rudolph Jones, PORTLAND RESIDENT

Poem by Barry Rodgers, PORTLAND RESIDENT

Poem by Naji Chester-Payne, PORTLAND POET LAUREATE

Juneteenth Medley by Nzinga's Daughters

Singing together of "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

**Noon to 3:30 Activities:**

Treasure Hunt — for ages 3 to 93+

StoryWalk© — "A Flag for Juneteenth" by Kim Taylor

Yard Games

Live Music: "At Last" and "For Fun"

ZoJu Foods — modern soul food — IN THE CAFETERIA

Ice Cream Emergency truck — FREE ICE CREAM

Jessica Rossitto with Mona's Sweet Shop Express

Information Booths

Merchandise Vendors

Artwork from Portland School's Black and  
Latino Studies class