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03/12/2012 Minutes

Diversity Task (DTG) Group Minutes: March 12, 2012
Accepted as amended at April 9, 2012 meeting

Present: Claire Carswell, Mary Harrison, Jane Howard, Tarajee Pass, Marie Ricciotti, Miriam Stein

Minutes from last meeting were accepted.

DTG brochures were left at Robbins Library; need more brochures. Will restock Robbins racks and also stock Fox Library and Boys and Girls Club.

Names of those who expressed interest in the DTG have been sent to Tanya Zucconi for inclusion on the DTG list. At future meeting, we will receive names of people to email or call regarding joining DTG.

Claire will use the responses to "what does diversity mean to you?" to draft an article for the Advocate. We will contact Andy Levin, the editor, regarding interest in publishing an article. However, any article should be tied to a larger DTG goal.

As a way of focusing on a goal for DTG efforts, the committee referred to the original goals established for the task group. The group agreed it is important to help Arlington become a more welcoming community. This could help attract more educators and other staff of color to work for the Town and could attract more diverse residents. It could also help in Town Meeting where this year there may be a larger number of new members. "Welcoming one another wherever we are in Arlington" seems to express this overall focus.

As a first step, DTG could help facilitate welcoming new Town Meeting Members (TMMs). This would not only build community in Town Meeting, but would also address a concern raised a few years ago by new TMMs. DTG could send some questions to new members and post the responses as a way of introducing new members to one another and the community. We will bring potential questions to the next meeting.

Future Meetings: Mondays: April 9, May 14, June 11.