



Envision Arlington Diversity Task Group

Date: October 12, 2023

Time: 6:45 pm - 9:00 pm (official meeting start at 7PM)

Remote Participation, via Zoom

Attendees: Rebecca Gruber, Michèle Oshima, Sarah McKinnon, Katell Guellec, Lenard Diggins, Mona Mandal, Stephanie Ettinger de Cuba, Jane Flores

Facilitator: Michèle Oshima

Minutes: Michèle Oshima

Minutes

1. Welcome

2. Land Acknowledgement

We will work with local indigenous community members to rewrite the DTG land acknowledgement

3. Approve the Previous Minutes

We will approve the September minutes at the November meeting.

4. Updates on Town events, news, etc.

- **Town Day report back**

Our team connected with many folks—Christopher from True Story Theater/Jody & Julie from Arlington Eats/Cecily from Arts Arlington/Elizabeth, healer working on intergenerational trauma-many of whom might be great presenters and possible programmers of Arlington projects that DTG would like to co-promote. And we reconnected with a former active member and learned about their experience with DTG.

- **The Upcoming Special Town Meeting on 10/17**

The warrant is not accessible. The information is obtuse.

- **The Override Vote on 11/7**

Folks were urged to go to www.investinarlington.org. Arlington loses teachers to other towns due to the low pay. Wish there was a

way to see what percentage is for teachers/schools/library/services for youth and seniors/public works/public safety.

- **The Hispanic Heritage event at the Community Center**
Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration this Sunday, October 15th 2:30-4:30PM in the Robbins Library Community Room. The organizers were looking for help with the event. If you're interested in volunteering to help, please contact Ileana Gatica at amandanicte@gmail.com
- **The Arlington Reads Together Title**
A student from Arlington High put forth the selected title, [Solito: A Memoir by Javier Zamora](#). The Arlington Teosinte Sister City Project will collaborate.
- **The Social Justice Book Club**
The Social Justice Book Club's next meeting will be Tuesday November 28 from 7-8PM in the Robbins Library fourth floor conference room and over Zoom with the Meeting ID: 853 0829 3843.

They will be discussing *Our Migrant Souls: A meditation on Race and the Meanings and Myths of "Latino"* by Héctor Tobar. "A new book by the Pulitzer Prize-winning writer about the twenty-first-century Latino experience and identity."

Copies of the book should be available at Robbins Library shortly, and there are also digital book and audiobook options on Libby.

- **The war between Israel and Hamas**
This is a very painful scary time for all adjacent and close to the situation. There are concerns about Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.

This book was recommended—[Linda Dittmar](#) (whom I met because of our mutual friend [Louis](#)) memoir is out—[Tracing Homeland](#)

- **ACPAC is fully staffed.**
Waiting to hear when it will convene. DTG's representative Reverend Erica will be invited to present to DTG once ACPAC does meet.

5. Discuss how to set up a framework for how working groups should work to empower them to meet outside of DTG meetings to make progress on their goals.

Deadlines seem to be critical given the experience of the folks who conducted the search for ACPAC. Folks are encouraged to meet between DTG meetings to work on their areas of interest and report back. This dialog will be continued at the next meeting. The goal is to have a line-up for the

DTG sessions in the first half of 2024.

6. Heads up that Kathy Modigliani would like to convene a small working group from the Diversity Task Group and Human Rights Working Group to plan for meeting with the United American Indians of New England (UAINE).

- More details are attached.