

**TOWN OF WESTERLY  
MULTICULTURAL COMMITTEE**

**Present:**

Mary Carol Kendzia  
David Madden  
Frank Pendola  
Katherine Rosen  
Robert Serra  
Ruth Tureckova  
April Dinwoodie  
Charisse Duroure Morrone  
Timothy G. Flanagan  
Peter C. Ogle

**Absent:**

Town Council Liaison  
Michael T. Niemeyer  
School Committee Liaisons  
Angela B. Goethals  
Alternate: Leslie S. Dunn

**Wednesday, April 2, 2025  
at 5:30 P.M.  
Westerly Town Hall  
Municipal Court Room  
45 Broad Street  
Westerly, RI**

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Minutes

1. Call to order: at 5:25 p.m.
2. General check-in, welcome
3. Multicultural Committee Mission read by April Dinwoodie  
The Westerly Multicultural Committee is a diverse committee of residents dedicated to exploring and promoting the full cultural richness of Westerly. In celebrating and embracing the traditions and values of the groups within our community, we will harness the social and economic benefits of diversity and tighten the common bonds between us.
4. Conversation Guidelines read by Frank Pendola
  - **Actively listen--** ask as much as you talk; avoid assumptions and seek true clarity

- **A**gree to disagree – as individuals, we may not always agree and when there are disagreements, each member agrees to be cordial and civil
- **B**e present -- stay checked in; commit to the practice of being effective at conversations centered in complexity –resisting the urge to be multitasking if at all possible
- **C**ommit to the community – understand that our work is part of the bigger community of Westerly that is growing more diverse

5. Review and approve minutes from the March 19, 2025, meeting. Motion to approve: Ruth Tureckova, seconded by Mary Carol Kendzia. Unanimously approved.

*(Moved discussion of promotion efforts for Neighbor Day here.)*

#### Promotions

1. Press release
    - Mary Carol Kendzia sent press release to Nancy Burns Fusaro at the Westerly Sun
    - Mary Carol will send Charisse a list of contacts and email addresses for media and public institutions (e.g., libraries) in the RI-CT area
  2. Flyers/posters distribution
    - These were made available at the meeting for MCC members to distribute
    - Ruth prepared lists of businesses in the Westerly area where flyers/posters can be hung; each member took a list
  3. Media engagements
    - Ben Barber: Charisse and April were on his program – April 2
    - Rona Mann interview – April 16th
    - WBLQ Radio with Betty Jo – May 10<sup>th</sup>
    - Rotary Club – May 12<sup>th</sup>
  4. Town social media
  5. Other opportunities in partnership with Wilcox Park
    - Share Neighbor Day information with the marketing team at the Westerly Library
  6. Personal invitations
    - Local/State officials
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6. MCC Logo Design Contest
    1. Tim Flanagan reported that as of April 2, there was 1 submission for the MCC logo design contest
      - New deadline for logo submissions: Tuesday, April 22, 2025
      - Tim will share this info with John Tedeschi
      - Poster-sized logo from contest winner will be displayed at Neighbor Day
    2. April noted that we will need to develop designs specs for the winning logo, with various formats for print, online use, etc.
      - Where will the logo “live” once the contest is concluded?

7. Neighbor Day May 18, 12 to 2 p.m.

April, Mary Carol, and Alan Peck from Wilcox Park met on March 3 to discuss coordinating Neighbor Day plans with the Garden Market Fair.

- Alan will provide 2 tents for the Neighbor Day activities, set up on the esplanade
- We will confirm that he can provide 2-3 tables for activities.

1. Activities

*World map activity*

- Pete Ogle has spoken with the mapmaker and has ordered 2 maps mounted on foam core board, then framed (no glass or other covering)
  - 3' x 6' map of the world
  - 3' x 2' map of New England
- A discussion ensued about having a map of Westerly and the surrounding towns, so people can pinpoint where they live now. Pete will follow up on this
- A suggestion was made to have materials available for comments (index cards and pencils/pens?)
- The plan originally was to have push pins with round heads for the map activity, but April brought up a concern about young children having access to push pins. Pete (and others) will investigate other means of marking maps.

*Make your own flag activity*

- April shared a website with an example of what the flags might look like.
- A suggestion was made to use 5" x 7" blank index cards or cardstock for flags
- Have markers, colored pencils, crayons, etc. on hand for creating the flags
- Other materials, e.g., glitter, glue sticks, decorations?
- Provide popsicle sticks or other on which to glue flags?

8. Music

- Big Lux will play starting at 11:45 a.m., on the Town Hall steps
- He will bring his own sound system
- Tim will follow up with Town Hall about a source for electricity for sound equipment
- Frank Pendola will sing a song about Westerly following the special tribute to Mary Jane DiMaio.

[Do we need to have a separate sound system with a microphone for the ceremony at noon or can we use Kevin's equipment?]

9. Neighbor Day Citation

- Mary Carol will send around a copy of the 2012 Citation for MCC members to review and revise
- The revised text will then be submitted to the Town Council via Mike Niemeyer and/or Mary LeBlanc.

#### 10. Land Acknowledgement Statement

- Pete shared copies of a Land Acknowledgement Statement in consideration of having this read at the beginning of the Neighbor Day ceremony.
- A discussion ensued about the language of the statement, and whether or not ~~it was appropriate~~ to read ~~this~~ at Neighbor Day.
- MCC members will review the Land Acknowledgement Statement and bring any thoughts and/or comments to the next MCC meeting on April 16.
- April noted that we should be in touch with Silvermoon LaRose regarding the decision on using the Land Acknowledgment Statement at Neighbor Day, as Silvermoon was helpful in ~~developing~~ giving feedback to Pete about this statement.

MCC members will do a run-through of Neighbor Day message at the May 14 meeting to ensure that we are all on the same page with that.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m. Motion made by Robert Serra; seconded by Katherine Rosen. Unanimously approved.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 16 at 5:30 P.M. in the Town Hall Municipal Court.