Town Hall Meeting

September 27, 2016

The meeting started with the question “What do you think of when you think of Black pride?”

Answers

>I think of how much I love our community

>I think of how much I love being black and gay, and how proud I am of the skin wrapped around my body.

>Uplifting and unifying the community

>Strength, power, resilience, love for oneself

After that, introductions of all new board members were made as the remaining attendees came in.

We discussed the reasoning behind having community Town Halls, which included the ability to look back on the year and to gain input from the community on how to move forward.

The phrase “You can’t spell community without unity” was brought up.

The community members were asked what they would like to see moving forward.

Ideas

>Community toy drive, possibly in conjunction with a holiday party

>Community food drive to help others within the LGBTQIAA community

>Adopt a Family

(Would we adopt a family from the newspaper or from our own community?)

We discussed the Black Boy Joy campaign and whether it would be feasible to have a blackpridejoy campaign that included selfies with the hash tag #blackpridejoy.

After more discussion, it was determined that Black Pride, as an organization, has lost a lot of credibility within the community and that we needed to rebrand, as well as showing positive things to bring people back to the community. We also need to reassure them and to show resilience. After some discussion, it was determined that apologizing again would not necessarily bring people back and might weaken the Black Pride brand.

One possibility is a re-introduction of sorts (Black Pride 2.0) that highlights the changes being made.

We discussed how to get people to trust again. Suggestions were to show consistency and reliability, have frequent events, to re-try things that had possibly failed in the past, and to keep emphasizing the changes being made.

There was also an extensive discussion around the ballroom scene, and whether or not to have a drag show as a way of bringing the community together.

Pros of doing so were that lots of people like to go to shows, lots of people are in the bars anyways, and that it was a good way to make money.

Cons were that many people don’t like drag shows, and that it was difficult to do one consistently.

Money and finances were also brought up. There were several ideas but nothing concrete was decided.