



**TEAM Westport Meeting Minutes**  
**October 4, 2016, 8:00 AM**  
**Room 201, Westport Town Hall, Westport, CT**

**Attendees:** Judy Hamer, Zoe Tarrant, Harold Bailey (Presiding), Bernicestine McLeod, and Catherine Onyemelukwe

**Guests:** Catherine Lewis, Jennifer Keller (Westport Library), Ramin Ganeshram

The meeting was called to order at 8:07AM

**Approval of minutes:** Catherine moved that we approve the minutes with amendments. Zoe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**What's Up:**

1. Judy talked about her trip to the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. prior to its official opening. Judy's family contributed items to the collection. She was featured in an article that appeared in the Washington Post.  
The building is beautiful – located to the right of the Washington Monument. Judy described the items and artifacts from her family that are on display among which are pictures of her grandfather who was a Pullman porter, her father as an infant being held by her grandmother, and her great-great-great grandparents who were born in slavery.
2. Rev. Dr. John Morehouse has announced that a banner supporting “Black Lives Matter” is going to be put up by the Unitarian Church on its grounds here in Westport this Sunday.
3. Several publications were mentioned:
  - a. The Other Slavery -- The Uncovered Story of Indian Enslavement in America, by Andrés Reséndez, is the story of the enslavement of tens of thousands of Native Americans across America, from the time of the conquistadors up to the early twentieth century.
  - b. When I was White, by Sarah Valentine, who was raised as being white, but found out later in life that her father is black.
  - c. *CRWN Magazine* for those with natural hair.

**Programming**

1. Playhouse: The current production is Camelot featuring color blind casting. Several members of the cast are of color. Reviews thus far of the production have been great!
2. Interfaith: The Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration will be held on Sunday, January 15, 2017, at 3PM at the Playhouse. This is being planned by the Westport/Weston Interfaith Council, the Westport Country Playhouse, and TEAM Westport. Currently, we have secured a key note speaker for the program and are planning the program.
3. Citizen's Police Academy – Three citizens associated with TEAM Westport are currently enrolled. The last session will be held on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.
4. Follow-on Conversations:
  - a. We are waiting to hear back from the School Curriculum team as to when we might be able to schedule a “Parents University” session in the schools.
  - b. The proposed date for the session on “How to Talk to Your Children about Race” at the Westport Library is January 8, 2017. We have to check with the Library to see if this date is



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- available and to have it in before the deadline for printing the Library calendar. We'll publicize this event via our normal venues – Interfaith, Clergy, press release, etc.
- c. Harold is currently scheduled to give a presentation at Christ and Holy Trinity Church in November. The slide show that was developed that shows images our children see in Westport may be a good lead-in to his talk. Everyone will review the presentation and offer “tweaks” if necessary.
5. TEAM Staples: Mr. Coyne is the Advisor and there are four or so student members. Right now, the students are planning to go together to events around town and then discuss them. Some of the students would like to take the African-American literature course offered in the Staples’ syllabus. We also have to work on the best ways to establish lines of continual communication between TEAM Westport and TEAM Staples.
- Action: Judy and Harold will connect with the head of the English Department at Staples with regard to the African-American literature course.
6. Monthly discussions around town about issues of interest within TEAM Westport’s scope are being planned, but will take place later in the year.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37AM.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, November 1, 2016, in Room 309 at Westport Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernicestine McLeod  
Secretary