



TEAM Westport Meeting Minutes
November 1, 2017 8:00 AM
Room 201, Westport Town Hall, Westport, CT

Attendees: Susan Ellis, Catherine Onyemelukwe, Zoe Tarrant, Maggie Mudd, Harold Bailey (Presiding), Bernicestine McLeod, Ramin Ganeshram, Althea Seaborn, and Elaine Daignault

Guest: Rebecca Marsick

The meeting was called to order at 8:05AM.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of our October 3, 2017 meeting were approved and will be posted.

Programming:

1. **TW Book Club:** There was a showing of the film *I Am Not Your Negro* at Toquet Hall on October 30th with a good attendance and followed by an active discussion. The next book to be discussed will be Stamped from the Beginning by Ibram Kendi in December. There is momentum around us in that other groups are discussing White Like Me by Debby Irving, The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander, and Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates. Michael Fowlin from Baltimore will be in Wilton tonight. His presentation connects kids to emotions around race.
2. **Interfaith Clergy/Interfaith Council:** We are planning the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration to be held on January 14, 2018 at 3PM at the Westport Playhouse. More details will follow. The Black Lives Matter banner went back up at the Unitarian Church last week.
3. **Playhouse:** The play *Flyin' West* is in the lineup next year and will most likely involve co-programming with TEAM Westport.
4. **Conversations:** Althea and Maggie are meeting and planning our next sessions. We discussed several topics that might be good for TEAM Westport conversations.
5. **Library Partnership/Coming Events:** The first session of "The Community Table" series will be held on November 9th at the Library. Susan is a facilitator. Frank Sesno will be here. He wrote the book Ask More: The Power of Questions to Open Doors, Uncover Solutions, and Spark Change and will discuss how to approach the world to get the answers you need. This series will help to institute a process demonstrating how to have civil conversations involving different sides of issues – an art that is difficult these days.
6. **Policing:** Maggie and Althea met with Chief Koskinas and his leadership last Friday. A meeting will be planned for a larger group of TEAM Westport members to meet with the chief and his leadership.

Education:

1. **Essay Contest Planning:** Susan and her committee are working on possible topics for the 2018 contest.
2. **Strategic Planning:** On October 13th, Zoe and Catherine presented to a group of teachers at a Westport Professional Development Day. The take-away: training is key and teachers need tools to handle situations that come up in school settings with regard to race. On November 9th, Zoe and Catherine will give a similar presentation to parents at a Long Lots PTA meeting. Mark Brackett from Yale is working on Emotional Intelligence with teachers. Additional training for teachers might come from other groups such as Border Crossers.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40AM.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 5, 2017 in Room 201 of Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernicestine McLeod
Secretary